

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA,
HELD THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2016

The Honorable Council of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, met in regular session on Thursday, September 22, 2016, at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers of the Municipal Building, there being present:

President:	Culver
Councilpersons:	Russell, Robinson, Showers, Kling
City Administrator:	Hamilton
City Attorney:	Riley
City Clerk-Treasurer:	Benion

President Culver called the meeting to order.

Pastor Robert Somerville led the invocation;
Councilman Russell led the pledge of allegiance.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Council on September 8, 2016, were approved as submitted.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Resolutions and Special Recognitions.

President Culver stated that Mr. John Hamilton, the City Administrator, would be filling in for Mayor Battle, who would not be present for the meeting.

President Culver recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it was his honor and privilege to

represent the Mayor and the citizens of Huntsville in a couple of presentations. He stated that there were two different groups to be recognized, with the first one being Parent-Teacher Associations. He asked Ms. Beth Wilder to come to the podium, along with any other person she might wish to be recognized.

Ms. Wilder introduced April White, stating that she was the PTA President at Chapman School, and that Ms. White had had this idea, and she had just helped to facilitate it.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution designating the month of September 2016 as PTA Month, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-683)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

Mr. Hamilton asked the members of the City Council to also join them, stating that what they would be presenting was a joint resolution. He stated that as they had looked at the opportunity for the City of Huntsville to recognize the work of the PTAs, the Mayor and Council had felt it would be appropriate for them to jointly recognize this great work.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the resolution that would be presented recognized just how important the PTAs in the city were and what a significant role they played in the life of each of the schools. He stated that the schools in the city

were strong because they had a lot of persons who were working together to make them strong. He stated that one of the groups that was necessary in order to have a good, strong school was the parents, and their being involved not only at home with their children but also being directly involved inside the school. He stated that there were a lot of activities inside the walls of the schools where the parents were there assisting teachers or running programs or doing other things that helped resource and prepare children.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it was his honor and privilege at this time to recognize the role the PTAs played and the difference they made in the community, and in the schools specifically and in the lives of the children.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he wanted to thank them for this and, on behalf of the Mayor and the Council, present the resolution to them.

Ms. Wilder stated that she believed that perhaps persons did not realize they did not have to be a parent of a child in the school system, nor a grandparent or a relative, that one could be a neighbor down the street, a business partner, or a community member, and be part of the PTA. She stated that she certainly appreciated the Administration and the Council allowing them to have this opportunity to encourage persons to support their local schools. She stated that she could guarantee there would be someone there that one could mentor.

Mr. Hamilton asked Nancy Hudson of Alabama Operation

Lifesaver to join him on the podium.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it was his honor and privilege to present a proclamation to Ms. Hudson, noting that with this proclamation they were doing two things: Recognizing the Alabama Operation Lifesaver's 40th anniversary and also recognizing the 40-City Rail Safety Tour. He continued that this was focusing on the safety of the community around the rails. He asked Ms. Hudson to comment on the Alabama Operation Lifesaver organization.

Ms. Hudson stated that Operation Lifesaver promoted safety at railroad crossings and on railroad property. She stated that she was the Director of the Alabama program, and that they were excited to celebrate 40 years of having this program in Alabama. She stated that Huntsville was No. 25 out of the 40-City Tour. She stated that to celebrate the 40th anniversary, they had decided to pick 40 cities, so that they were taking this on the road.

Ms. Hudson stated that for Huntsville, for City employees, for the communities, the schools, civic organizations and businesses they offered free safety presentations, for kindergarten through 12th grade, and senior citizens. She continued that they wanted to do everything they could to remind the people in the city to think train every time they approached a railroad track. She stated that Alabama had seen a tremendous reduction in crashes since the inception of this program 40 years prior. She stated that the number had gone

from more than 2800 incidents to fewer than 900, but that Alabama was still No. 9 in the nation for vehicle/train collisions. She continued that on their 40th anniversary, they still had a lot of work to do.

Ms. Hudson asked that they be allowed to come to Huntsville and bring their safety message to the Administration, or Council, and the citizens.

Mr. Hamilton thanked Ms. Hudson for her presentation.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Mayor Battle had asked that they follow the same model for comments on the budget as they had at the prior meeting of the Council, in terms of presenting some initial information on the budget. He stated that there were a lot of important activities on the agenda for this meeting, and that presenting the budget was perhaps the most important. He stated that they wanted to make the presentations at this time, and then when the matter came up on the agenda later in the meeting, they would, of course, answer any questions there might be concerning it.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Administration certainly appreciated the opportunity to go through the budget in detail at this time. He stated that the slides they would see at this time were a summary of the more detailed documents the Council members had on the budget. He stated that their goal at this time was to hit the highlights for them. He continued that he certainly expected that this would generate some questions and some good dialogue, and that was what they wanted to have about

this very important ordinance they were asking the Council to consider and vote for later in this meeting. He stated that the foundation of the slides that would be shown were the slides that had been used when the budget had been introduced at the prior Regular Meeting of the Council. He continued that they had gone through this based on some of the specific questions they had received from the members of the Council, and they had added some additional things to the slides in order to address these concerns directly.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were a couple of things that Mayor Battle had asked him to share and point out at this time. He stated that, No. 1, this was a balanced budget. He stated that they felt they were obligated to bring the Council a budget that was balanced and did not take them into red numbers. He stated that there were other levels of government where they oftentimes operated in the red, and the intent was that the City would not do that in this budget, but that it would be balanced. He continued that they were comfortable with the revenue projections they had that would get them to a balanced budget. He continued that the budget was based on some assumptions about revenue growth, noting that the one they talked most about was sales tax. He stated that this was modeled on a 3 percent growth rate, noting that this had shown to be accurate and successful for them in the prior few years, and that they anticipated this model to be successful for them going into Fiscal Year 2017.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were different growth rates for different taxes, just based on things within the economy and the community that would influence the manner in which they would grow. He stated that Sales Tax revenue, which was the largest, was the one they tended to focus on the most.

Mr. Hamilton stated that what one would see would be that growth was largely consumed by personnel costs, noting that this was not unusual, that it was typical for governments at all levels. He stated that as one looked at the salary numbers and the benefit numbers, et cetera, one would see a growth in the salaries. He continued that they, in fact, were proposing a growth in salaries, with the 2 percent COLA that was included in the proposed budget. He stated that the prior year they had had a 1 percent COLA, and at this time they had looked at the cost of living, et cetera, and they believed a 2 percent COLA was appropriate.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning the way the employees grew their salaries over time, it was important to note that a COLA was not the only raise or the only way in which employees' compensation packages grew. He stated that the primary means for growing compensation was the step increases the employees received, noting that this was separate from the COLA. He continued that the COLA was intended to cover growing costs in the cost of living, and that it was intended to more closely match what was seen as inflation within the community and the cost for the employees to continue to conduct themselves and

maintain their salary levels. He stated that this was the focus of the COLA, and that they had recommended a 2 percent COLA, and they were able to fit that within the proposed budget, while maintaining a balanced budget.

Mr. Hamilton stated, just so the public understood, that they did have a very orderly salary structure, where the employees were also being compensated for their years of service, allowing growth through that step process. He reiterated that the 2 percent was not the only raise the employees received, that it was just the Cost-of-Living raise that was part of the salary structure. He stated that they believed it was important to talk about this in detail and to be transparent about the way in which they looked to compensate and retain employees.

Mr. Hamilton stated that another thing they felt to be noteworthy was growth and authorization for the Police Department. He stated that this had been an area of focus for them for the prior few years, and they expected it to continue to be an area of focus as they saw the community grow, geographically as well as in population. He stated that it was necessary for them to keep the Police Department growing along with the community, so they could sustain their ability to cover the cost of service, their ability to respond to concerns in the community. He stated that there were areas where this needed to be improved.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the proposed budget recommended

an additional seven positions within the Police Department. He stated that the intent was that one of these would be a lieutenant, which he noted was necessary within the headquarters structure, and there would be six additional patrol officers that would be assigned to positions within the patrol division. He stated that this was the significant personnel growth that one could see.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there was another position that they recommended, and this was an Animal Control officer. He stated that this department's work load was heavily driven by the growing population and the growing geographical area. He continued that this affected their ability to respond to calls, et cetera, that they had some of the exact same time/space/distance issues the Police Department had, and so they had recommended growing Animal Services by one additional Animal Control officer.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this was a total growth of eight positions within the city, and that this was seen within the proposed budget, Exhibit B.

Mr. Hamilton stated that one would see on the agenda that there was a Substitute A to the ordinance to adopt the Fiscal Year 2017 Budget, and that this was solely because of a change on Exhibit B within the budget, which was the personnel. He stated that Exhibit B listed every single department, and it listed the total number of persons that each department was authorized as of this date, and the increases and decreases

that were recommended, and what the total would be for FY 2017.

Mr. Hamilton stated that during the prior Regular Meeting of the Council, they had introduced the budget, and that Exhibit B had the authorization as it existed at that moment in time, but that later in the meeting, the Council had voted on and approved a personnel action that changed one of these numbers, being in Landscape Management. He stated that Landscape Management had gone down by one authorization as a result of a vote that had been taken at the prior Regular Meeting of the Council, and, therefore, it had been necessary for them to correct Exhibit B, in order to reflect what this was at this time.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this was the only change from what had been initially introduced to what was now Substitute A, the one personnel authorization within Landscape Management that had been approved at the prior Council meeting. He stated that all the other budget numbers, et cetera, were exactly the same as had been presented at the prior meeting.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they would be happy to entertain questions as they went through the presentations of the budget.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Ms. Sargent would present information focused primarily on the General Fund, and then he would present information on the 1990 Capital Plan, and Mr. Davis would present the 2014 Capital Plan.

Ms. Peggy Sargent, Director of Finance, made a PowerPoint

presentation.

Ms. Sargent stated that, as Mr. Hamilton had stated, they had a balanced budget to present to the Council at this time. She continued that it was also a healthy budget. She stated that they had spent a lot of time studying both revenue and expenses, so that they would go into 2017 in a very good position. She stated that, additionally, she wanted to note that although they were in a new accounting system and some of the actions done to get to this place were a little bit different, the same methodology and practices were used as had been used in prior years.

Ms. Sargent stated that the slide that was being displayed was presenting the General Fund revenue for 2017. She continued that the Total Revenue was \$197 million, General Fund only. She continued that, as one could see, 52 percent of this was made up of Sales Tax, or \$103 million. She stated that the next largest component was Other Taxes, at \$28.8 million, or 15 percent; and Licenses and Permits was an additional approximately \$25 million, or 13 percent.

Ms. Sargent stated that on the next slide, one could see the expenses within the General Fund, and that one could see that it was \$197 million. She stated that, as Mr. Hamilton had noted, Personnel made up 73 percent of this, or \$143 million. She stated that the next largest component was 18 percent, and that was daily Operating Expenses, at \$35 million.

Ms. Sargent stated that what was being shown was a

comparison of the 2016 budget versus the 2017 budget. She stated that starting at the top, there was Revenue, and that in 2016, the budget was just slightly over \$190 million for revenue, versus the \$197 million. She stated that one could then come down to Personnel expenses, again the largest component in both years. She stated that it had been \$135 million versus \$143 million. She stated that one could continue down the line, coming to the Total Expenses of \$189 million versus \$197 million.

Councilman Kling asked Ms. Sargent if he could ask a question at this time or if she would prefer to wait until the end of her presentation.

Ms. Sargent stated that Councilman Kling could go ahead and ask at this time.

Councilman Kling asked, concerning the additional Personnel, if there was a breakdown of what additional positions were in the budget, in addition to the Police Department positions.

Ms. Sargent stated that this budget was made up only of current persons on the books, as well as the eight adds.

Councilman Kling stated that he believed at one point they had had some discussion about a Traffic Signal Technician. He continued that he believed this had been discussed at mid-year. He asked if that position was already being advertised.

Mr. Hamilton replied in the affirmative. He stated that the hiring action for that position was ongoing, and the

position was accounted for in the numbers that had been presented.

Ms. Sargent stated that at the end of FY 2016, the General Fund was budgeted to have an excess of \$1.3 million, and at the end of FY 2017, the General Fund was budgeted to have an excess of \$40,000.

Ms. Sargent stated that this showed it was a balanced budget, that they were in the good. She continued that it was also healthy, because it was accomplishing the goals of the City's charter and the Mayor's intentions.

Ms. Sargent stated that in addition to the General Fund, there were numerous other Enterprise funds within the City. She continued that these funds were protected from use within the General Fund. She stated that the slide that was being displayed provided a high level summary of their revenues, expenses, and showed where they would end the year.

President Culver asked if there were any questions from the Council members for Ms. Sargent.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell asked Ms. Sargent how much money the School System was being provided from the City in this budget.

Ms. Sargent stated that she would have to go back and review in order to give an exact number on this, but that it was in line with similar prior years.

Councilman Russell asked if it was correct that it was a percentage of the revenue the City received.

Ms. Sargent replied in the affirmative, stating that the School System would receive their normal appropriation. She stated that the Council members should have Appropriations in their package.

Councilman Russell asked Ms. Sargent if she could further describe "Inner Fund Transfers" and explain it.

Ms. Sargent stated that Inner Fund Transfers was money that was transferred between the General Fund and subsidiary funds. She stated that there were multiple funds within the City, like the Enterprise funds. She continued that although their money could not come to the General Fund, the General Fund did have a responsibility to ensure that they stayed at a healthy level.

President Culver stated to Councilman Russell that, to address his question, he believed the appropriation for the current year for the School System were approximately \$17 million.

Councilman Russell stated that, obviously, it would be higher for the proposed budget because the revenues were higher, and that he had wanted to know how much higher it was, but that he could get that answer later.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that Mr. Hamilton had mentioned the increase in the Police Department. He asked, concerning the body cameras, what increase they had to assure that the department would be financed in terms of having the cameras for

the officers.

Ms. Sargent stated that the cameras had been funded in the 2016 budget, so that as far as she knew, they had all the officers with cameras, and being deployed.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the initial fielding of the full complement of cameras and that technology for the Police Department was actually funded with year-end funds from FY15 during Calendar Year 2016. He stated that as those funds were made available in the fall of 2015, they had made the purchase throughout the year 2016, and had fielded the cameras to the officers. He continued that the approximate budget for this was \$1.2 million, for the initial fielding. He stated that what was now included in the Police Department's Operating Budget was what would be the typical life cycle replacement. He stated that there would certainly be costs, as with any other technology introduced, to them or any other department. He stated that as there were needs for upgrades or replacement of the existing equipment, that would be accommodated in the Operating Budget.

Mr. Hamilton stated that, additionally, there were still a number of communication technologies related to that that they needed to continue to make the upgrades to, to the Police force. He stated that the primary funding mechanism for this was in the 1990 Capital Plan. He stated that he would move forward to a slide that had a list of a number of things. He stated that one could see, approximately three-quarters down

the page, "Public Safety Communications Equipment." He continued that a portion of this was for the Police Department, and that it was specifically focused on some of the in-car technologies. He stated that one of the things they were doing to upgrade the whole camera system, on that information technology, for the Police was upgrading to a newer version of the dash cams, which actually had a connection to the body cams.

Mr. Hamilton stated that at this time, the Police Department was operating on two different dash cams, and the newer version was that when the dash cam was activated, it automatically activated the body cam. He stated that the technology was in the newer dash cam in order to allow that connection and allow the body cam to be automatically activated.

Mr. Hamilton stated that for the Police officers who still had the older version of the dash cam, the automatic turn-on did not occur, that that technology did not exist in the old dash cam, so that they would have to manually turn on their body camera at the appropriate time. He stated that one of the things they were seeking to fund from this money was an acceleration of the fielding of the newer dash cam technology so they could get to a better place in terms of how that camera technology worked together.

Mr. Hamilton stated that one of the things they had discussed concerning the body cam program was that some

police departments and law enforcement agencies around the country had actually eliminated the dash cams when they transitioned to body cams. He stated that their feeling was that having both sets of technology would provide a much clearer picture of what may have occurred in a particular incident. He stated that sometimes the dash cam would actually get better footage than the body cam would, or vice versa. He continued that it was their desire to retain both, to get one new one and retain the old one, so that they had both systems so they could work in concert on the scene. He stated that to really get to the place where it needed to be in the technology, functioning in the manner they wanted it to, they needed to get to the newer version, or the upgraded version, of the dash cam. He continued that a portion of what they were proposing in the 1990 Capital Plan would fund exactly what Councilman Showers had been speaking of, the upgrade to some of these systems that worked together with the body cameras.

Councilman Showers stated that he had raised that issue because on the prior weekend some persons had seen the report where there was a shooting by an officer, and it had been discovered that that officer did not have the cam equipment on. He asked how they would monitor whether the officers would be wearing the cams at all times.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were a couple of things they had to do, with one being that there was a training component to having a new piece of equipment. He stated that

when an officer entered a situation with a lot of things going on, such as having a suspect, a victim, a witness, or moving cars, et cetera, and with that officer having to deploy equipment such as flashlights, et cetera, there would now be, in addition, the task of turning on the body cam.

Mr. Hamilton stated that going to the upgraded dash cam equipment would help to eliminate the need for the officers to do this in most situations. He continued that the dash cams would turn on automatically if an officer turned on his lights. He stated that there were certain situations where for appropriate tactical reasons, the police officers would not turn on that emergency equipment, that there were circumstances where they would need to come into a situation without having announced their presence, so they would still have to manually turn on that equipment. He stated that, however, in most situations, with the appropriate technology, it would come on automatically. He stated that this would mitigate potential issues with the training and an officer not doing it because he was having to do other tasks, such as trying to save someone's life, trying to protect a citizen, or protecting himself, things such as that.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it was a complex environment when one got on a scene, particularly if it were a violent circumstance. He continued that they asked their officers to do that on a regular basis, that they did not give them the option of avoiding violent circumstances, that they were the

ones that had to go in there and do those things in order to protect the community. He reiterated that it was a very complex environment, that they had a lot of tasks to perform. He stated that he believed each of the Council members knew this well. He stated that they had had the opportunity to engage with the Police Department and look at a lot of things they had to do.

Mr. Hamilton stated to Councilman Showers that he was absolutely correct, that it was important that they train the officers on these tasks, that it had to become second nature to turn on one's body camera.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Chief McMurray and himself had spent a couple of hours earlier in the week talking through some of these very issues and some of the programs, et cetera, the Chief was going to need in order to implement and make absolutely certain the training was there, and also to go back and audit the performance of officers and make sure they were getting it right. He continued that if they were not getting it right, there were measures that would need to be taken to do that, that it might be more training, or it might be disciplinary, or other technology solutions that would help with the problems. He stated that he believed it would most likely be all of the above.

Mr. Hamilton stated that these were things they would ask the Chief and his Deputy Chiefs and the Captains to work on within the department. He stated that these were real issues,

and that every department around the country was dealing with this. He stated that Chief McMurray had engaged with his counterparts in other communities, talking about how they were doing and the lessons they were learning. He stated that there were some departments that had fielded their technology ahead of Huntsville, so they were getting lessons from them on the things with which they were dealing.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this was a real issue, and it was one they were going to have to take on. He stated that it was really incumbent upon the leadership of the Police Department to address this issue on a daily basis, because it was easy to get it wrong, but they could not afford to get it wrong. He stated that the Police Department would have to work on this, that these were real issues they needed to address.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell stated that he had some questions he would like to ask of some department heads and asked if this would be the appropriate time for this or if it would be the time when the budget was actually on the floor.

President Culver stated that this could be done at this time or later in the meeting. He stated that the Administration was prepared to answer questions at this time.

Councilman Russell stated that he had questions for Chief McMurray of the Police Department.

Chief McMurray appeared at the microphone.

Councilman Russell stated to Chief McMurray that he had

questions for him concerning the budget. He stated that Public Safety was the No. 1 priority and that he wanted to make sure Chief McMurray was getting enough money to keep the public safe.

Chief McMurray replied in the affirmative, stating that this was the first significant growth he had seen, noting that they had received additional funds for the types of programs that had just been discussed. He stated that the emerging technology was like a giant wave, coming on them quickly, and that with the ability to install the equipment, the servers and the storage, and get it up and running, it was all working at this time, thanks to their vision. He stated that the leaders had seen this coming, and that in 2015 they had put the money up for it, that in 2016 the money had been spent, and they were using it at this time and were saving lives with this equipment.

Chief McMurray stated that the increase in personnel was good for the City of Huntsville, because as they were growing and expanding in population and size, they were also growing in calls for service, so that the additional manpower they were putting on the street was going to be well used. He stated that they needed things such as the Violent Crime Task Force, the Street Crime Task Force. He stated that they had the sergeant for this now, and that they had just given them six good bodies to put on the street and to go after the most dangerous criminals in Huntsville. He stated that for the

areas that needed cleaning up the quickest, they needed a rapid response answer to them, that they did not need to wait until shootings got retaliatory, and persons started shooting each other, that they could stop that. He reiterated that they had just given him six new officers and stated that that was exactly what they were going to do with them. He thanked them for this.

Councilman Russell asked Chief McMurray what would be some other things he would ask for if the Council found more money, or magically money appeared. He asked what else he would need.

Chief McMurray stated that already the technology was catching up on them. He stated that when the new cameras were installed in the cars, if the officer pushed the button on his body camera, it would turn on the car camera; and if the officer turned on the lights in his vehicle, it would turn on the body camera. He continued that they were wireless, that they were blue-tooth enabled. He stated that this technology had not been available when they first put in the car cameras, but it was there at this time. He stated that the IT Division had put together a Panasonic package, and that it was the same technology, that the same company did the body cameras that did the in-car cameras, so that it was all compatible. He stated that it was a really unique system that they had put together, and that it was functioning very well.

Chief McMurray stated that they had lost two body cameras already, that one of them had been crushed, and another was

left on top of an officer's car, and it had been crushed, and they had had to discipline that officer. He continued that now that he would have six more officers, he would have to buy six more cameras for them. He stated that this was where the money was going to go, that it was going into meeting the needs of the growth of the city.

Councilman Russell asked Chief McMurray how he was doing on fleet.

Chief McMurray stated that fleet was absolutely a challenge. He stated to Councilman Russell that they had done a great job the prior year, that they had put another 50 cars back in the fleet. He stated that when they were operating 460 cars on the street every day, they needed every one they could get. He stated that the fleet condition was getting better.

Councilman Russell inquired of Chief McMurray as to the morale in his department.

Chief McMurray stated that he had just conducted interviews for Captain, so he had been able to interview nine Lieutenants, and that when he had asked them about organizational changes, everyone had commented on what a tremendous year they had had, an overwhelming year of projects, implementation, the tasers, the vehicles, the technology, the body cameras. He continued that they would be going paperless, with tablets in the car, very soon. He continued that they had a go-live date of approximately June of the following year to

go paperless, which he noted would save them money, time, and effort. He stated that this would keep the officers in the field, that it was called "Field-Based Reporting." He stated that an officer could do a report for a burglary, and then push a button, and it would go to the Sergeant; and the Sergeant could push a button after he approved it, and it would go to Records; and then a person could get a copy of the report. He stated that the officer would no longer have to drive out of the field to turn in paperwork. He stated that at this time they were still turning in paper at the end of the shift, but by the middle of the following year, they would be paperless, and they would be able to keep their officers in the street, where they could respond to calls more quickly.

Councilman Russell asked Chief McMurray if it would be safe to say that his people were embracing the technology.

Chief McMurray replied in the affirmative. He stated that half of his department at this time was under five years in experience, that he had a very young department, and that they were doing a great job. He stated that he was convinced that the training in the Police Academy in Huntsville was the best in the state of Alabama. He continued that they had been doing this since 1965, and it was very unique, that the officers got the best training in the state.

President Culver recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that in addition to adding the cameras the prior year, they had also increased the number

of tasers the officers had, and that the tasers also had cameras in them, as she understood. She asked Chief McMurray if he would be purchasing additional tasers, if that money was in the budget for him, or if he had sufficient tasers.

Chief McMurray stated that he had found a creative way to get tasers without attacking his budget any further. He continued that he had a combination of some seizure funds and some grant money that became available on a cycle. He stated that the tasers they were purchasing did not have cameras in them, that they had a red dot laser, so that one would never miss what one was shooting at. He stated that this was very important. He stated that they had a little flashlight built into them. He stated that with the camera coverage they had on body cameras, with multiple angles coming from each officer at the scene, and the in-car video, they had not seen the need for all that expense.

Chief McMurray stated that it would cost approximately half a million dollars to put tasers on every officer in Huntsville, and they had been able to finance that through proper use of grant money and seizure funds, so that they were letting the drug dealers pay, noting that they were buying their dogs and their bullet-proof vests, as well as their tasers.

Chief McMurray stated that the Council would probably see his bill in the following year, when he asked to purchase more cartridges, but that, actually, they were doing well with this

at this time. He stated that they should have these fully implemented around springtime, that they were contracting with the taser company at this time on this.

Councilwoman Robinson stated to Chief McMurray that, as she understood it, he would be receiving seven additional personnel units. She asked how many additional units he would need to be fully staffed to the point where he really wanted it to be.

Chief McMurray stated that this number was dynamic, that it was measured both by size, by calls for service, and by comparison to other studies. He stated that they had done these numbers, but the problem was that Huntsville was just not like other cities. He continued that the crime rate in Huntsville was much lower than that of cities with a population of 200,000 around the country, that this was a unique area. He stated that they were meeting their needs, that they were answering the calls, that their response time was less than the national average, and that their solving of crimes, such as burglary, both residential and commercial, was 33 percent higher than the national average. He stated that they had an extremely low homicide rate, that they had zero unsolved homicides for the current year.

Chief McMurray stated that these were things they were very proud of, noting that they were doing very well with this. He stated that things such as paperless reporting were going to make them more efficient, and that what they were looking for

was efficient use of their resources. He stated that he certainly would not say they could not use more manpower, that anyone would tell them they could use more manpower. He continued that he thought the City was doing that, that they were doing it in a methodical way, by adding staff every year.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers inquired of Chief McMurray as to the diversity in the Police Department.

Chief McMurray stated that they were 60 percent minority out of the prior Academy. He stated that at this time they had an open date until the end of September, that they were taking applications for the Police Academy. He stated that the prior year when they had opened this, they had screened 1,000 applicants to become a Huntsville Police Officer, but at this time they were running at about one-half of that, that he barely had 500 people in Huntsville who wanted to be police officers. He stated that persons were not knocking their doors down to become police officers, that it was not the job it had been when he had started 30 years prior. He stated that it was an honorable profession, but it was very difficult, and getting persons to step up for the base pay of \$37,000 per year was very difficult at this time.

Chief McMurray stated that this was their challenge recruitmentwise. He continued that this was also going to hurt the minority recruitment, because he was getting less than half of what he had gotten the prior year for the same job.

Councilman Showers asked where the Police Department was recruiting.

Chief McMurray stated that their No. 1 target was job fairs. He continued that they tried to concentrate within a 200-mile radius, because recruitment was expensive, and that any further away than that, the return on the investment was just not there, that persons did not travel that far to get a job, at that starting rate. He stated that they concentrated locally, job fairs, universities, and that they had hit three different military camps, including Redstone Arsenal. He stated that any time they could get out and talk to the public in any venue, they did so.

Councilman Showers inquired as to the status of the upper level promotion as it related to diversity, from the top down.

Chief McMurray stated that he could break those numbers down and send them to the Council. He stated that they had all this on an EEOC sheet, and he would be glad to share that with them. He stated that it was a very comprehensive report, and that he would be glad to forward that to them.

Councilman Showers asked, concerning the top positions in the Police Department, if they had made any sizeable gains concerning diversity.

Chief McMurray stated that there was just not that much movement, that when there was one chief, two deputy chiefs, and six captains, they were not top heavy. He stated that for a department their size, of 430 officers, they were very

minimally staffed at the top, about a third of what one would see in, say, Montgomery. He continued that Montgomery had three times the number of command staff with which Huntsville did the same work. He stated that there was just not a lot of upward mobility and movement once one got to lieutenant. He stated that they had 13 lieutenants, and that was it. He stated that it was just not very mobile. He continued that it was about the same as the prior year.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he had taken a look at some of these numbers a few weeks prior, and starting at the top, that, obviously, the Chief of Police was not a minority; and there were two Deputy Chiefs, with one being minority and one not being, so they were at 50 percent minority representation at the second level. He stated that the third level within the chain of command was the captains, and there were six captain positions, and two of these were African American and one was Hispanic, so they were at 50 percent minority within this level. He stated that he did not know the numbers for lieutenants, but that it was a much larger group, and he did not know the statistics.

Mr. Hamilton stated that overall, the Police Department was the most diverse it had ever been, that with the class that had graduated recently that was approximately 60 percent minority, they were now over 15 percent minority. He stated that this was not as much as they wanted it to be, that this was an issue the Mayor continually addressed with the Chief, to

continue the recruitment. He stated that for a number of years this recruitment had worked, that the percentage had grown every year, that it was steady progress, but that it was still not where they wanted it to be. He stated that there was no one in the Administration that disagreed with the desire to continue to grow the minority representation, and they were seeing it grow.

Mr. Hamilton stated that some of the challenges with this were that each year approximately 20 to 25 officers were hired, and that it would take time to grow the percentage, but they were seeing the growth each year. He stated that they could not take their eye off this target, that they had to continue to fight the fight every single day and every time they recruited for the Academy. He stated that, as Chief McMurray had noted, the number of applicants for the Academy was down significantly. He stated that he believed they would be sticking their heads in the sand if they thought that this was not at least partially a reflection of things they were seeing going on around the country. He stated that they had to be cognizant of this. He continued that these things might cause them to try and change the way they were recruiting, or change the way they were hiring, that this was something they would watch very closely.

Mr. Hamilton stated that every time they went through this process, he personally spent a lot of time with the HR personnel, as well as the senior leadership in the Police

Department, going into exactly how many applicants they had, where they lost them in the process, et cetera. He stated that it was a pretty arduous process to go from applicant to police officer, just to become a cadet. He stated that they could not afford to put persons out on the street, as police officers in Huntsville, who did not meet standards, that they had to have tough, rigorous standards. He stated that he was confident that their hiring process made sure they reached those standards, but they needed to make sure they were out there bringing in the qualified applicants from a very diverse pool, so that the police force would be a reflection of the community. He stated that this was a tough fight, and it was a fight they had to continue every single day, and that it absolutely had the Mayor's attention, his attention, and Chief McMurray's attention.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there was a change coming with the Academy, that at this time they had authorization from the State to run two Academy classes per year. He stated that as they finished the applicant process that was going on at this time, there would then be another applicant process for the second Academy class, so that there would be two opportunities in the year to address this issue. He stated that they had to get officers onto the street, that they had to be well-trained and highly qualified, and they had to make sure they reflected the community, from an ethnic perspective and from a cultural perspective. He stated that this was an important component of

the Police Department being able to represent and protect the community.

President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he had some questions concerning health insurance. He stated that, first of all, he would like to say that he believed the City Clinic and the management of it was phenomenal, noting that he had been hearing great feedback from employees, as well as having gone there himself. He stated that it was very well managed.

Councilman Kling asked if they were seeing any type of a decrease in their health coverage costs, health insurance or medical costs, they were having to pay out.

Mr. Hamilton replied in the negative. He stated that this was a very complex question to answer. He stated that they saw these numbers moving in multiple directions, for multiple reasons. He stated that in the first couple of years, they had fully expected the clinic to drive up some additional medical costs. He continued that the reason they had advocated for the clinic was not primarily for saving money, but they certainly hoped, as a secondary benefit, they would save money long term. He stated that in the near term, they had expected it to be more expensive, because it was to improve access to medical care for employees that, because of the difficulty of finding their own doctor, et cetera, might just have not gotten medical care at all.

Mr. Hamilton stated that particularly for employees who

had had life-long problems, from things genetically, or whatever it might be, they needed medical assistance to better manage these issues, to prevent them from turning into something worse. He stated that they had found a lot of cases where employees were not getting access to that type of care, that they were only being seen when something catastrophic had occurred. He stated that there were diseases that if managed properly, one could avoid more serious things in the future.

Mr. Hamilton stated that, primarily, the focus of the clinic was to improve access to medical care for the employees. He stated that, secondarily, because of getting these employees into a better management style of medical care, they would certainly expect that long term the catastrophic cases they had to deal with through their insurance would be reduced.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they did expect that long term the Clinic would save the City money and save the taxpayers money, but that near term they believed some of the increases they had seen were actually the result of employees getting medical care, which he noted the City had to help pay for, rather than ignoring the problem. He stated that ultimately they believed the return on investment would be good. He stated that this was going to be a very difficult case to prove, that sometimes it was difficult to prove what might have happened, and they might never know. He stated that, however, they anticipated that long term this would be a good investment, to make sure that the employees had access to good

care and that any conditions they might have would be properly managed.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they also saw the natural inflation within their insurance and within the medical coverage that was experienced all across the country. He stated that they were aware that the cost of medical care was growing at a rate that was well ahead of the inflation rate for other components of one's life, and that they certainly had to deal with that. He stated that some of the growth that was seen in that component of the budget was just the result of the natural inflation that was occurring at this time in the medical industry and the medical insurance industry, that it was just a result of the natural inflation within medical care.

Councilman Kling stated that even though it was growing, it might be slowing down the rate of growth, and that that would be a victory.

Councilman Kling stated that it would be nice if there were a place, perhaps the City's website, where employees could see the cost of drugs at different stores and do a comparison of the costs. He stated that if employees started shopping around, and word got around they were doing so, perhaps stores would become more competitive on their pricing.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they would determine if CareHere could do a market analysis to see what was available.

President Culver recognized Mr. Byron Thomas, Director of Human Resources.

Mr. Thomas stated that on Blue Cross's website, persons would have access to do some comparison shopping.

President Culver stated that it was a numbers game as it related to recruiting minorities, and that the Police Department was going to have to work even harder as it related to, perhaps, institutions of higher education that had Criminal Justice curriculums in place. He stated that he was certainly doing all he could to steer students who were genuinely interested in law enforcement to the City of Huntsville.

President Culver stated that he had a question concerning the budget. He stated that since he had been serving on the Council, the General Fund budget had been \$230 million, and then \$242 million, but at this time he was looking at a General Fund budget of \$197 million. He asked if there was another item, such as perhaps Other Taxes, that they were not including in the General Fund.

Ms. Sargent stated that prior to conversion to MUNIS, there were other items within the General Fund that were all in one area, and at the conversion, the prior Finance Director had pulled certain items that should have been in separate Enterprise funds out into other funds, so that within that large budget document, they had other funds, such as Liquor and Lodging tax, Property tax, School Property tax. She stated that she could not state at this time which ones were where, but she could get that information. She stated that certain

things were realigned so that the General Fund truly represented only the General Fund, only the day-to-day operations, and that this was the \$197 million. She stated that the 2016 General Fund should have been a similar number to this.

President Culver stated that he just wanted to make sure that the General Fund was not shrinking, that it was just a reorganization of how they accounted for the money.

Ms. Sargent stated that it was just a reorganization, that all the money for the City was still there.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell asked that the Fire Chief come to the microphone.

President Culver stated that the Fire Chief was on extended leave, but there was someone to fill in for him.

Deputy Fire Chief David McComb appeared at the microphone. He stated that Chief McFarlen was in the hospital, recovering from surgery, and that he was filling in for him at this time.

Councilman Russell asked Deputy Chief McComb if they had enough money in their budget to keep the public safe.

Deputy Chief McComb replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Russell asked what they were excited about in this budget, what were some programs the Fire Department would implement, or what they were going to do with the money.

Deputy Chief McComb stated that they had some special appropriations in the Capital Fund that were going to help them

out with their aging fleet, and hopefully put some money away for future fire stations, to help with the coverage in the western part of the city, where they were short on response times, and also provide funds for some needed equipment for communications upgrades.

Councilman Russell asked Deputy Chief McComb if they were to be provided extra money, how it would be used.

Deputy Chief McComb stated that it would be used to increase the fleet and to prepare to build more fire stations.

Councilman Russell inquired as to the No. 1 priority in Fleet.

Deputy Chief McComb stated that it would be just replacing the aging fleet. He stated that pretty much every reserve truck they had was in front-line service at this time, so that they really needed some help in getting their fleet upgraded.

President Culver recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton made a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he had a couple of slides to highlight some things from the 1990 Capital Plan. He stated that as they would notice on the agenda, there was a budget ordinance that addressed the totality of the ordinance, and then following that on the agenda, there were two resolutions, with the first being a resolution indicating the intent for the expenditure of the Capital Improvement Plan, specifically the Plan that was established in 1990, by ordinance. He stated that following his presentation, Mr. Davis would address the

Capital Plan that was established by ordinance in 2014.

Mr. Hamilton stated that what was being displayed at this time was the FY 2017 component of the Capital Plan. He stated that, as they were aware, they looked 10 years out with this Plan. He stated that they would be looking at the greatest amount of detail in the first two or three years within the Plan, but that they did lay out some plans 10 years out. He stated that what was being shown was specifically investments they were making out of the 1990 Capital Plan in 2017.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the next slide actually went into greater detail for Street Resurfacing, in response to some questions he had received from members of the Council. He stated that he had wanted to lay out for them the work they were doing to grow the resurfacing program, that that would be seen on the next slide, and they would focus there.

Mr. Hamilton stated that one could see some other improvements in John Hunt Park, Greenways, the Merrimack Park Expansion, the Tennis Center, the Iceplex, and Fleet. He stated that as both the Fire Chief and the Police Chief had noted, they needed to continue to make investments in Fleet. He stated that following the recession in 2008-2009, one of the areas that had been impacted by the loss of revenue was fleet replacement, so that they had to catch back up on life-cycle replacement.

Mr. Hamilton stated that their intent at this time for use of the Fleet Account, should the Council approve this, was

primarily focused on Police and Fire, although they would need to use a sizable portion of this in Sanitation, to upgrade their fleet. He continued that there were also some other smaller requirements that would fit in that, as well. He stated that as Deputy Chief McComb had noted, the Fire Fleet, in particular, was very old. He stated that some of the trucks that were in use at this time had come into service in the mid 1980s. He stated that their goal this year, amongst that particular engine fleet, was to start eliminating the 1980s, and at least get into the 1990s for the oldest part of their fleet, and then they would immediately begin to work on getting rid of the 1990s. He stated that this would be a continuing battle to work their way through.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they had had a number of things that had worked very successfully within the Fleet account. He stated that the General Services Department had the Fleet Division within it, and that Mr. Easter spent a lot of time working on that analysis. He stated that they had started approximately three years prior doing a very detailed analysis on the status of the fleet, to assess the need for replacement of every single piece of equipment they had in the fleet.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they were actually funding this fleet replacement in multiple ways, with one of them being what was seen in the 1990 Capital Plan each year. He stated that this year they had been able to put in what they believed was a fairly healthy number. He stated that as they replaced a

vehicle, they were not growing the fleet, that, in fact, there were probably some areas where they could make the fleet smaller, which would result in a better picture of this. He stated that as they assessed vehicles that were not used as much as they needed to be, they would find a new home for them and start reducing the size of the overall fleet. He stated that as they replaced a vehicle, the older vehicle would be auctioned off, and all the proceeds from that auction would go back into the Fleet Account, to purchase more fleet.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they also had circumstances where vehicles might get damaged by another motorist, particularly within the Police fleet, but others, as well. He stated that when they received an insurance settlement on these, the proceeds would go directly into the Fleet Account, in order to continue to replace the fleet.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they were seeing measurable improvement in the aggregate quality of the fleet, but there were still some areas that needed a lot of work. He stated that this was particularly true for the Police, the Fire, and the Sanitation departments.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning the Repaving program, that what was being displayed showed what was in the budget for FY16, Repaving of \$4.3 million, and specifically the program addressing ADA compliance with Sidewalks, \$275,000 in FY16. He stated that this was clearly not enough. He stated that Mr. McNeese had spent some time talking with each of the

Council members as they were going through some of the contracts for repaving in the prior year and had talked about how the obligation to make certain improvements along the roads for ADA had actually taken some of the resources away from Repaving.

Mr. Hamilton stated that what they wanted the Council members to think of was that Repaving was going to buy asphalt, and the Sidewalks and the ADA was going to buy concrete. He stated that they should keep those two things separate and not allow one to encumber the other. He stated that in FY16, they had had to allow some of the concrete requirements to encumber the asphalt, so that they had not repaved as many streets as they had wanted to be able to do.

Mr. Hamilton stated that what was in the budget before the Council for FY17 was \$5.3 million, with the same amount for FY18. He continued that after that, it would grow by \$200,000 per year, going out to 10 years. He continued that this was still not as large a number as they would want it to be, but it was what they could afford to place in the budget and keep the budget balanced at this point. He continued that if they had years in which sales tax growth was ahead, then this plan would come healthier, and they would have the opportunity to better fund the requirements that were funded out of the 1990 Plan, and that certainly Repaving was one of the highest priorities within this Plan. He stated that even though the Plan was not as large as they would want it to be at this time, they were

still able to put in a decent amount of growth, and that they would continue to focus on doing that. He stated that he would certainly be working hard to make the FY18 number larger than what he was showing at this time.

Mr. Hamilton stated that on the Sidewalks, the ADA side, one could see a significant amount of growth. He stated that they had obligations, based on Federal law, to upgrade existing infrastructure, as well as build new infrastructure, and they had to improve the resourcing there. He stated that one could see a significant jump in the resourcing for that, starting this year, and that it would continue to grow in the out years. He stated that this was also a number that he felt that over time they would need to grow. He stated that that was a conversation they needed to have at this time each year as they looked at the Capital Plan, to make sure they were meeting the needs of the citizens out there on the streets, within the rights-of-way, both for the asphalt requirement and the concrete requirement.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he would be glad to answer any questions about the 1990 Capital Plan.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he had noted in the Capital Projections, that the last section showed the amount to be transferred to the General Fund. He asked where this money, approximately \$3 million, had been taken from to put into the General Fund.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this was an example of action the Council had had to take in order to respond to the declines during the recession. He stated that there were a number of things the Council did back at that time, including reducing the percentage of sales tax that went into the top line of the 1990 Capital Plan, as well as approving a subsidy from the Capital Plan back to the General Fund, in order to keep it balanced. He stated that they had actually been able to reduce the subsidy they had originally projected, that in old versions of the Capital Plan, one would see a much larger number they had anticipated having to take from the Capital Plan in order to balance the General Fund. He stated that the number had moved in the right direction, and that although they wished that \$2.5 million could stay in the Capital Plan, they were actually excited that they had gotten it down to this amount.

Mr. Hamilton stated that if they had that extra \$2.5 million in the Capital Plan, he would recommend that it be used primarily in two places, with one being Repaving and the other being Fleet Life-Cycle Replacement, to address the issues both of the Public Safety chiefs had discussed. He stated that there might also be some smaller requirements that some of this would be used for, but that he would recommend that the overwhelming majority of it be used to repave more streets and replace more of the fleet, particularly within the Public Safety departments.

Councilman Showers stated that he definitely agreed with

the Street Resurfacing and Fleet. He stated that if there were a possibility to go back and re-looked at this, he would like to have those dollars put back into those two areas.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Ms. Sargent and himself had spent a lot of time working through this, and that she had put in many hours drafting the budget and presenting it to the Mayor, and that he and Mr. Davis had also spent a good deal of time working on that with her, particularly focused on the Capital component of it. He stated that this subsidy, which was a drain on the Capital Plan, was an important part of that. He stated that there were a number of things that would occur as they went through the management of their revenues and their expenses through the year of execution. He stated that Ms. Sargent would only pull that money from the Capital Plan if it were necessary.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there was a possibility that as they got to the end of the year, and as they were closing out the year, if it ended up not requiring that full subsidy, then it would not all be taken. He continued that that money would then stay in the Capital Plan, and it would allow them to immediately add it into the balances that would address FY 2018. He stated that a year from this date, exactly what Councilman Showers was asking for could help change the picture on what they would do immediately going forward on the Repaving, in particular, but also Fleet. He stated that Councilman Showers was absolutely correct that they needed to

continued to fight to get this number as small as it possibly could be.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the main way to do this was by growing revenues. He stated that as revenues grew inside the General Fund, particularly if they grew ahead of model, it would need less of a subsidy during that year and the following year.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they updated the Capital Plan model throughout the year, that they monitored how it was going, and that that informed what they would be able to present to the Council at budget time. He stated to Councilman Showers that they were working toward exactly what he was asking for.

President Culver recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that over the course of the prior two years, there had been lots of conversations about the BIG Picture, and they had received a lot of community input on projects, and that she was delighted to see that in this Plan, they were funding a lot of these projects, including Ditto Landing, Cummings Research Park, and Downtown. She stated that two of the projects that were receiving the largest allocations were John Hunt Park and Merrimack Park, that she believed it was \$5 million for each of them, and then \$5 million for the following year. She asked if Mr. Hamilton could tell them what they were going to be using this for, what the community would be getting for this.

Mr. Hamilton stated that, as they had said, they believed John Hunt Park was a multi-year development story. He stated that in the prior two years, most of this effort had been on things that the public did not really see, noting that a lot of this was infrastructure. He stated that persons saw some of the road work that was happening in and around the park, and some of the cleaning up of some of the runways, et cetera, but there had also been a lot of design work that the Engineering Department or General Services or Public Works had been working on, so that a lot of that effort was on a piece of paper that they would then have to execute.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the way he had referred to the last couple of years was setting the conditions for starting to see some accelerated development in the coming years. He stated that the \$5 million in FY17 would be primarily focused on what one would think of as actual programming. He stated that there was still some infrastructure work to do, that there were some drainage issues that needed to be addressed in order to allow future development in certain areas, and there was some additional road work.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they also had multiple things that were being worked on at this time, noting that the Council had recently approved the design contract for a beach volleyball complex, and that something else they were working on was an expansion of the smaller soccer fields, so that there would be a grouping of soccer fields that were sized for

five- or six-year-old children. He stated that the space would accommodate going from five fields to nine fields, almost doubling the capacity, as well as bringing in some bathrooms and pavilions, as well as improving some parking.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they were currently working on expansion of the Tennis Center, but that most of that funding was in a separate line item.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the \$5 million for John Hunt Park was actually more than \$5 million when some of the named projects, such as the Tennis Center expansion, were added in. He stated that that design work was going on at this time.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were also some renovations inside the Iceplex that needed to occur, to improve access for the public and to improve party areas, and things such as that. He stated that if one looked in the out years on the Plan, there were multiple places where they started working on these issues.

Mr. Hamilton stated that these were the primary programming components that the public would see. He stated that one would also see some street work that would open up some areas and create some boundaries around spaces, to give the area some structure. He stated that in the prior couple of years, Landscape Management had led efforts, mostly volunteer efforts, to begin planting trees in certain areas, and that that would continue to occur. He stated that he believed the date for the fall tree planting would be announced soon, and

that these things would continue to occur as they moved forward.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning Merrimack Park, that although they had not closed on the property at this time, the expansion would go onto property they were purchasing from the School System, the Huntsville Center for Technology. He stated that there were some greenway connections from the existing part of Merrimack over to that side, noting that there was a creek that ran through the middle of it. He continued that there would be better pedestrian connection between the two sides of the park.

Mr. Hamilton stated that that would not get them fully expanded. He stated that General Services was in the process of selecting the engineer and architect team to actually design the expansion, and they would be bringing that contract before the Council in the coming weeks.

Mr. Hamilton stated that his guess was that this \$5 million would get them a handful of additional fields, plus parking. He stated that they believed this property could accommodate about eight or nine additional fields, but that part of the design work would be to tell them exactly what would fit there. He stated that, additionally, using monies that the Council had actually put in the budget in the prior fiscal year, they were making improvements to the older part of Merrimack, including lighting fields and making some improvements on the existing park to improve its capacity.

Mr. Hamilton stated that soccer was one of the areas where they were aware they were not meeting the community's demands for those fields, and they were trying to address this in a number of places, but that Merrimack was the primary place, because having a large, consolidated facility would allow them to meet the day-to-day demands of the soccer clubs and recreational community, and it would also improve their ability to host larger week-end tournaments and things, which were also valuable to the community. He stated that there were also other smaller parks around the community where they were able to improve the capabilities for soccer. He continued that soccer and lacrosse used the same field, so that these expansions would improve conditions for both of these communities.

Councilwoman Robinson asked if there was anything included in this budget to redevelop Joe Davis Stadium.

Mr. Hamilton replied in the negative. He stated that at this time, Joe Davis Stadium was a large question mark for them. He stated that there were multiple different things that could occur on that property, either with the existing stadium or some redevelopment of it. He stated that at this time they were listening to people with ideas, noting that they had had a number of persons approach them with ideas, with some appearing to be more viable than others. He stated that they had always said they would listen to anyone with an idea. He continued that they did not yet have a project on the table that was

ready to be executed. He stated that there was a developer that was very serious and did have a project that they thought could become viable, but there was still work to be done to bring financing together, and that ultimately they would need to bring it before the Council for consideration as to whether or not that would be what they would want to happen on that property.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there was not movement on Joe Davis Stadium at this time, but that that could change at any time, if someone walked in with a great idea.

President Culver asked Mr. Hamilton if he could elaborate briefly on the North Parkway redevelopment.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this was something that Mr. Davis could address in more detail, that that was an item that had actually been put in the budget a couple of years prior. He stated that they had looked at some areas where they wanted to put some very focused attention on some properties along the North Parkway. He stated that this was an economic development pot of money. He stated that they had thought it appropriate to break that out and name it specifically, so they did not lose their focus on it. He stated that Mr. Davis could answer specific questions about some of the activities involved with this, but the purpose of the money was to make it available when there was an economic development project that addressed some of these specific properties.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell asked Mr. Hamilton how the \$3 million was derived for fleet purchases. He asked if it was just what they had left.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it was not that simple, but that it was not extremely scientific. He stated that they were trying very hard to make sure they were making investments across the full range of the needs of the community, from the municipal facilities, where the employees worked and the way they delivered services to the community, to the Fleet, to the Right-of-Way Improvements, and Drainage, Maintenance, and those kinds of things, as well as investments in quality of life.

Mr. Hamilton stated that, as he had stated earlier, they would certainly like to have more money in Resurfacing, and he stated that they could do that, but at the expense of other things. He stated that it was kind of a judgment call as to what would fit in a budget, and then, also, what were the appropriate balance across each one of the domains, so that they were continuing to address the complex of needs from the community. He stated that while he would love to double, triple, or quadruple the Resurfacing budget, it would be at the expense of Fleet or at the expense of repairing a recreational center the community used every day, or these kinds of things.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they believed they had to come in with a balance across each of these domains and make sure they were addressing these needs and every year making improvements across each of the areas. He stated that one could see the way

the Plan was structured on paper, it broke these things out into what he was referring to as "domains." He continued that they believed this was the appropriate balance.

Councilman Russell inquired as to whether Fleet purchasing was centralized.

Mr. Hamilton replied in the affirmative. He stated that, as he described earlier, Mr. Easter did a very intensive review of the entire fleet, and that in order to make sure they were looking at all of the different types of fleet, they had actually divided it up into nine different categories of types of vehicles. He stated that in this way they were able to compare more accurately. He stated that Mr. Easter managed this data, and that many things, such as maintenance costs, the age of the vehicle, the mileage of the vehicle, the usage rates, were taken into consideration, and that an objective score was provided.

Mr. Hamilton stated that every vehicle in their fleet had a score, and that it was generally up in the 100s, and that they had, by category, the worst vehicle to the best vehicle. He stated that what they were working to do in this Fleet Account was to nibble off the top every single year, with the top being the worst vehicles.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were times when they needed to make a judgment call, just based on the cost of the vehicles, et cetera, and that there might be a category that would get zero dollars in one particular year. He stated that

an example of this was that in FY16, they did not use any of the money to buy a fire truck, basically because the fire truck category's fair share was less than the cost of one fire truck.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they had done that knowing that in this year, they were going to have to put a greater emphasis on fire trucks. He stated that they fully expected to be able to buy a number of fire trucks this year, but then there would be some other categories that might get zero dollars. He stated that this became a judgment call once they had done the objective analysis and had laid out where they could assume risk on certain components of the fleet. He stated that he anticipated that areas that would have to have investment every single year, if they were able, were Police and Sanitation, and that Fire would be right behind them, but that because of the cost of an individual truck, they would need to perhaps skip a year and accumulate resources, et cetera, so that would require some unique management.

Mr. Hamilton stated, concerning the Fire fleet in particular, that if one looked in the out years, one would notice, not with the next fire station they had programmed, but the two after that, there were actually two numbers there. He stated that one of these was the cost of designing and constructing the fire station, and the other number was actually the fleet that would populate the new station. He stated that in building a fire station, the cheapest part of it was the building itself, that the persons they had to have to

populate the team and the equipment they had to buy in order to outfit the new station would ultimately become much more expensive than the building itself. He stated that they had not always addressed these needs in this manner, and that what they were trying to do was to better reflect the accurate, fully burdened costs associated with some of the things they wanted to do.

Mr. Hamilton stated that in this 10-year Capital Plan, they needed to address the fire station needs, based on growth, particularly in the western part of the city. He stated that as these were addressed, they would come before the Council with a number that looked a lot bigger, but it would be because it would be a more transparent number of the true cost of having a new fire station, the building as well as the equipment. He continued that, of course, the personnel cost would be reflected in the General Fund.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Fire fleet had some unique things associated with it that sometimes required a little different management. He continued that, ultimately, he believed the answer to the original question was yes, it was centrally managed. He stated that once Mr. Easter had gone through that analysis with him, and they started breaking it apart, he spent a lot of time talking to the department heads that were affected by it and getting their input, and then they would talk directly with Mr. Easter, sharing concerns about priorities and trying to balance things out. He stated that

decentralizing this and trying to have each department purchase their own fleet was just not as efficient as centralizing this.

President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that the Council members might recall that at the last meeting of the Council, he had mentioned that he was interested in coming up with something to designate two-thirds of the road resurfacing money for neighborhood streets. He stated that he had worked with the Public Works Director and with the City Attorney, and that later in the meeting, he would be making motions for earmarking two-thirds of the Resurfacing money from both the 1990 Capital Budget and the 2014 Capital Budget for the Council's consideration.

President Culver asked if there were any further questions for Mr. Hamilton.

There was no response.

President Culver recognized Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis made a PowerPoint presentation.

Mr. Davis stated that this was the last portion of the proposed budget for the City of Huntsville, and that it was the newest portion of the City's overall budget, that it was the 2014 10-Year Capital Improvement Plan. He stated that in 2014, the Huntsville City Council had passed a resolution to create a one-cent sales tax revenue source to fund a brand-new Capital Plan, which was more commonly known as the "2014 Capital Improvement Plan."

Mr. Davis stated that the resolution creating this had dedicated funding for public improvements, to promote public infrastructure improvements, to promote economic development, and overall quality-of-life type projects. He stated that for the prior 45 minutes to an hour, they had discussed the General Fund Budget, and that Mr. Hamilton had just reviewed the 1990 Plan. He stated that he recalled standing before the Council when they had taken the 1990 Plan, which was supplementing the General Fund so greatly, and permanently reduced the 22 percent of the Sales Tax that was funding the plan to 17 percent. He continued that on top of that 5 percent permanent move to the General Fund, they had continued to supplement it. He stated that a big purpose of the 2014 Plan was not only for the public infrastructure but for economic development, and that it was working.

Mr. Davis stated that, as Mr. Hamilton had shown them, the 1990 Plan had the least amount of transfer to the General Fund that it had had in many, many years. He stated that economic development was growing the revenue stream, not only for the General Operating Fund, to run City services and City government for a year, but it was also putting new monies into the 1990 Plan. He stated that they hoped to get this number driven down to zero, that that was the purpose and intent of the Plan he was about to go over with them. He stated that a great thing to do would be to get it driven down to zero, and then maybe come back 10 years from this date and actually take

that 17 percent back to 22 percent. He stated that only time would tell on this, that the economy drove a big portion of this. He stated that this was the primary function of the Capital Plan he was going to present at this time.

Mr. Davis stated that the first thing that came out of the gate when they had passed the 2014 Capital Plan was the "Restore Our Roads" project, and that they had set aside the first \$125 million of the new revenue stream in the 2014 Capital Plan to fund this.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning overall revenue growth and projections, that one could see that through economic development and City growth, not only in property tax but also sales tax, and by being good stewards of the money and making sure they made the right investment, that not only had the 2014 Plan grown, but both the General Fund revenue and the 1990 Plan had also grown.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning Sales Tax projections, that they had put different growth factors for the General Fund, because a large portion of the Sales Tax went to fund that. He stated that they had projected a three percent growth. He continued that they had trimmed this back for the 2014 Plan because it was a smaller portion of the Sales Tax generated, to a one percent growth. He stated that, naturally, they adjusted this each year when they brought the Council the Capital Plan.

Mr. Davis stated that so far, the Plan was tracking to produce approximately 1.5 percent growth. He stated that they

were confident in this 10-year Plan they were presenting, that it could be funded with the revenue stream. He stated that, historically, this was an early Plan, that they had only 2 ½ years' worth of data to track, but that so far it was tracking very true, and that they had good confidence in what they were presenting to the Council.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning the Capital expenditures, of how the Plan was divided, that they had tried to have a healthy balance in the 2014 Plan, but also follow what had been passed in the ordinance, to be very heavy on road improvements and economic development. He stated that one would see that 77 percent of the Plan was funding roads, noting that this was the core value of creating the 2014 CIP. He stated that then one could start looking at redevelopment areas, which he noted was part of the BIG Picture process, of going into these areas that were fully developed in the 1950s and 1960s. He stated that these areas needed a little help, that they needed some help from the City.

Mr. Davis stated that this was very common across the country in cities that were progressive, that they would go back into such neighborhoods and put reinvestment back into them, so that they would remain a healthy part of the city. He stated that this made up six percent of the Plan.

Mr. Davis stated that approximately 11 percent of the Plan was for Economic Development, to try to help grow revenues, grow property taxes, which would help the Operating Fund and

the 1990 Plan.

Mr. Davis stated that four percent of Plan was Multi-Modal/Transit Services, Public Parking, Greenways, and some other things that he would get into momentarily. He continued that two percent was to help supplement a little bit of the 1990 Plan, with some major drainage projects that they could not afford in the 1990 Plan because of some of the General Fund transfers.

Mr. Davis stated that the 2014 Plan was very, very heavy on roads, and then second with economic development, and that the remaining two percent, four percent, and six percent were to pick up some things that were very important to the citizens from a quality-of-life standpoint that the 1990 Plan just could not afford.

Mr. Davis stated that they believed this was a very balanced approach as to how they were using the taxpayers' money. He stated that he would go over some details of the proposed 2014 budget.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning "Restore Our Roads," that they had made three of the five payments to the Alabama Department of Transportation as part of their agreement. He stated that they had a proposed payment in 2017, and that the last payment would be made in 2018, to complete that agreement.

Mr. Davis stated that they had first entered this agreement with Governor Bentley and Director Cooper of the Alabama Department of Transportation, and that they had started

out with five road projects. He stated that they had known the Plan would grow as they got closer and in better ranges on certain projects, and that this had now grown to a final list of eight projects, which he noted were balanced throughout the city. He stated that these were the current Mastin Lake/Memorial Parkway Overpass; the Byrd Spring and Lily Flagg Overpasses; the Northern Bypass, completion of the Martin Luther King Extension, as it was known locally; the US Highway 72 East Improvements, which he noted were complete; the US Highway 72 West Improvements; Access Management on South Parkway; the Cecil Ashburn Boulevard Improvements, and widening. He continued that one of the new projects was the Research Park Boulevard Improvements, from the Redstone Arsenal gate to just north of University Drive; and then the US Highway 72/County Line Road Intersection Improvements.

Mr. Davis stated that they believed that from what they envisioned at the beginning of 2014 to where they were at this time, the program had been very, very beneficial to the community, and that once completed, they believed they would see a dramatic change in the overall road network infrastructure citizens used daily.

Mr. Davis stated that now that they had only two years remaining on the "Restore Our Roads" project, this was the first year they had been able to get aggressive in the 10-Year Capital Plan of this 2014 program, to introduce new road projects that had been in the Planning Department and the

Engineering Department, and that they knew would make a difference in the community, make a difference in citizens' lives, not only in commute times but just in their daily travels.

Mr. Davis stated that he would like to go through these. He stated that Old Big Cove Road Improvements was \$8 million, noting that this was in the southeastern portion of Hampton Cove. He stated, concerning the Capshaw Road Improvements, that they would be taking that from a two-lane to a four-lane, and five lanes in certain areas.

Mr. Davis stated that the Holmes Avenue Improvements would be improvements from the downtown core into Research Park, and into the UAH campus. He stated that this had been one of the largest projects suggested through the BIG Picture process of connectivity, for persons in Research Park, and just overall in the community. He stated that persons had wanted to see better connectivity from the largest employment center into the downtown business district.

Mr. Davis stated that the Governors Drive Improvements would be east of California, to help with some choke points. He stated that since they had done the improvements to this roadway several years prior, they had noticed that some improvements could be made to greater affect the morning and evening peak times. He stated that they would be making improvements there around California Street.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning the Clinton Avenue

Improvements, that this would help with bringing another corridor off the interstate, from Governors Drive into the Downtown corridor.

Mr. Davis stated that the East Arsenal Connector was a long-range plan project that had been on the MPO for quite some time, and that it gave a new access into the Arsenal off I-565. He stated that the improvements they would do at 255 and the gate relocation would not totally satisfy the backlog that was seen every day to the Arsenal. He stated that the Arsenal was growing, which he noted meant more jobs for the community, so they wanted to make sure they were supporting that with the monies they received. He stated that they had finally been able to put this in the Plan and get it funded, bringing persons from South Huntsville eventually into I-565. He stated this would be a multi-years project. He continued that persons might better know this project as the "Southern Bypass," or a leg of the Memphis to Atlanta Highway.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning commuter traffic on the Parkway, the capacity was very limited, and that if they started looking 10 or 15 years out, that was a very critical project to the community.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning the Terry Drake Improvements, that this was near one of the new schools, an elementary school in Hampton Cove, and that this was a very narrow, two-lane road, with large ditches. He continued that they wanted to make safety improvements there.

Mr. Davis stated that Resolute Way would be a new interchange at the front gate of Redstone Arsenal, which would also tie into the East Arsenal Connector he had just mentioned. He stated that, also, this would be to help manage the traffic, noting that this was the highest use gate, and that they did not see this changing, with the growth patterns in the overall county. He stated that with the City's growth in the west and the overall growth in the county, they thought the East Arsenal Connector and Resolute Way were very critical to the city's growth, with future rounds of BRAC, and, really, to just help people live where they wanted to live and commute where they wanted to commute.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning the Weatherly Road Extension, that it was an extension to give them what they thought and had modeled to be a western corridor, north and south, into the South Huntsville area, kind of like Bailey Cove was to the east side of the Parkway. He stated that they believed that that would take some pressure off the Parkway and help businesses and some of the redevelopment they had talked about in the BIG Picture, of really helping neighborhoods kind of redevelop.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning Street Resurfacing, that Mr. Hamilton had done a very good job of balancing the 1990 Plan and adding more Resurfacing, but that it was not enough, and that this would be the first year that the 2014 Plan would assist with this. He stated that for the next couple of years, this would be \$500,000 annually, and it would

grow to \$1 million in approximately three years. He stated that this would be in addition to what Mr. Hamilton had shown them in his slides.

Mr. Hamilton stated that on the second slide he had shown the Council, which showed the full 10 years, those numbers had included what was out of the 2014 Plan, so they were not specific to the 1990 Plan.

Mr. Davis stated that the last new project was Four Mile Post/Whitesburg Drive, and that was intersection improvements that were needed to help with the left-turn movement in the mornings, with people from Jones Valley and Hampton Cove. He stated that there was an elementary school there, and that when the new Parkway overpasses were complete and the changes to Martin Road, they wanted to help to better accommodate that movement much more safely around the schools. He stated that Whitesburg Church had a new Whitesburg Academy, which was experiencing growth. He stated that that would just help some of the congestion in this area, that it was not a drastic project on the community, but they believed that small amount of money would be of drastic help with the congestion.

Mr. Davis stated that the Plan included 11 new roadway projects, at \$135.25 million, in addition to what was already in the Capital Plan. He stated that, as he had mentioned before, once they moved past the road projects, they would start looking at economic development, which he noted was pretty much constant, over \$4 million per year, of just putting

in projects to add value to the community, and hopefully expand the tax base. He stated that there were quality-of-life projects, where they could help supplement the 1990 Plan, because of its transfer to the General Fund.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning Greenways, that in addition to what was in the 1990 Plan, the 2014 Plan would supplement that with an initial \$8 million worth of Greenways. He continued that there was the Ditto Landing Master Plan, \$1 million.

Mr. Davis stated that the Urban Renewal Plan was a multi-year project, and that it was very critical to Cummings Research Park. He stated that as they had done the roll-out of the CIP Master Plan with the Chamber and with the Park ownership, they were very excited with the focus of doing some of this, not only within the Park but within the four priority zones, with two such zones being on the fringe and two in the heart of the Park. He continued that on two of the four, they had active projects, and they would continue to plug away at that to make sure the long-term success they had had with this would continue. He stated that they had had 50 years of success, and it was the second largest in the United States, and that they certainly did not want to lose sight of one of the largest economic engines in the community.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning Public Parking upgrades, that with the growth and the success they had had downtown, Mr. Hamilton and he had met with Mr. Tommy Brown, Director of

Parking and Public Transit, just looking and seeing what was on the horizon, things that they were looking to be coming up in the next two or three years. He stated that they were quickly getting at capacity with public parking. He stated that was the one thing that any city could provide to their downtown, noting that most streets were in place, sidewalks were in place, public utilities had been in place for many, many years, so that the one challenge with any urban center of any downtown was parking. He stated that they had put some money in the Plan to address that as they moved forward.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning Downtown Public Improvements, that a lot of this was streetscaping, noting that this was \$1 million per year. He stated that there were a lot of brick sidewalks with ADA issues, and they were trying to methodically replace a portion of these each year. He stated that not only had this helped with accidents, but they had seen growth come behind this, such as around the Courthouse Square and Washington Street.

Mr. Davis stated that this was six additional areas of funding, for a total of \$59 million.

Mr. Davis stated that when these numbers were added together, the City was doing very well. He stated that this was almost \$200 million of new projects in the Capital Plan. He stated that there were not a lot of cities across America where a person could stand before the Council with such information. He stated that a lot of this was the Council's

work, that a lot of it was from when new projects were brought before them, and they were shown the return on the investment, and their trusting and being a partner in them. He commended them for that.

Mr. Davis stated that when they had unveiled the preliminary information, the Council members had had some questions about the road projects, so he had quickly put together a map of local, funded roads that were either about to go under construction or would go under construction in the next 24 months. He stated that if one looked, he believed there were not many areas of the city that were not seeing significant investment in roads. He stated that when the Council had passed the 2014 Capital Plan funding mechanism, they had promised the public, as well as had the Mayor, that that would be the heaviest portion of the 2014 Plan, to make sure the transportation infrastructure remained current, and they did not overpace their growth, so that they could continue to have commute times comparable to the national average.

Mr. Davis stated that he would be happy to answer any questions the Council members might have at this time.

President Culver recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson thanked Mr. Davis for actually creating a financial plan to support the BIG Picture. She stated that a lot of people had stood before the Council and stated that this would never happen, but it was happening, and things were being funded, and it was a really great thing.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that the Executive Director of Ditto Landing was in attendance at the meeting, and she just wanted to make sure she had her numbers right. She stated that she had five years, at \$250,000 each, for Ditto Landing, which was \$1.25 million, but Mr. Davis had \$1 million displayed.

Mr. Davis stated that the Capital Plan was pretty tight, and that that figure might be adjusted, but that they would guarantee the first \$1 million. He stated that they were leaving that in at this time, but that they might have to change it. He stated that when the Council approved the Capital Plan, the only really guaranteed year was the one in front. He stated that, then, they would come before the Council the next year, based on collected revenue and audit numbers, and possibly adjust these figures. He stated that everything to the right of the first number, they had pretty good confidence in, and they had it included. He stated that the \$1.25 million was what they desired to do, and they did not see it changing.

Councilwoman Robinson stated, with regard to the same area around Ditto Landing, the Hobbs Island Road replacement came under "Bridges" and was a \$6.5 million project. She stated that they talked about a lot of bridges around Ditto and asked if Mr. Davis could clarify which one this was.

Mr. Davis stated that this was on Hobbs Island Road, and that it was a very aged bridge, between Marina Parkway and Memorial Parkway. He stated that they had done some work on it

approximately five or six years prior to get them to this year. He stated that this would be a total replacement of this bridge, to carry the weight load. He stated that it was structurally sound and perfectly safe for citizens to traverse every day, but that with the activities at Ditto and some of the industry in that area, they wanted to replace the bridge to get it to where they thought it should be for the next several years. He stated that they maintained the bridges very well, and they had very safe bridges, and that this bridge and the Browns Ferry Bridge were the only two bridges they saw that were in need of replacement in the next 10 years.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she believed this was a very important project as they redeveloped Ditto, because there would be a lot more persons coming down there, and that there was a plan at Ditto to have RV parking, so there would be all those RVs coming across that bridge.

Mr. Davis stated that one could see that this was moving toward the middle of the page, noting that when they had first created this Plan, it was almost all the way to the right. He stated that they were almost halfway there, and that they believed the timing of 2020 was the appropriate place to plug this in.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that this Plan was good, but, however, when one looked up at the top of the drawing presented, one would see the northern part of the city. He

stated that they had these additional projects, but they listed nothing for the northern part of the city. He stated that one could look at 53 all the way back over to 72, the Northern Bypass, but they did not have anything that would project economic development in North Huntsville, that it was blank.

Councilman Showers stated to Mr. Davis that he commended him for what he had done, but that he would go back to when they had the Governor's and the Mayor's project. He stated that they did not have the Mastin Lake project in it at that time, but they had fought and had gotten it in, and they had gotten the commitment to finish the Northern Bypass.

Councilman Showers stated that here they were again, and they did not have anything depicting economic development for the northern part of the city. He stated that he was not going to move on this until there was some inclusion of projects that would create economic development. He stated that they had Toyota there, and that they had been saying to the public that when they finished the Northern Bypass, that would create several different characters that they did not have at this time, residential, light business, and economic development. He stated that Mr. Davis had done a marvelous job, but that he needed North Huntsville to be included in economic development.

Mr. Davis stated to Councilman Showers that he could not agree with him more. He stated that he would like to break down economic development as it related to both the 1990 Plan

and the 2014 Plan. He stated that the map that he was displaying did not have any representation at all of economic development, that these were only road projects that were currently funded, that they were just road projects. He stated that when it came to economic development, the 1990 Plan had \$1.5 million dedicated to the North Parkway Redevelopment. He stated that this money had been put in the prior year, and that this was the year to spend it.

Mr. Davis stated that they were working on a couple of projects, redevelopment sites, which they had been working on for about 18 months, and they were going well. He continued that this was why the money was in the 1990 Plan that Mr. Hamilton had just mentioned. He stated that there was \$4 million per year under "Economic Development" in the 2014 Plan, and it was not earmarked for any part of the city, that it was a first-come, first-served basis as a project came in, whether it would be industrial recruitment of a Polaris, a GE Aviation, or a Remington, all of the success stories that the Council had been part of, or whether it was a retail project or a mixed-use development, wherever it might be.

Mr. Davis stated that they set aside those categories, and they rolled forward. He stated that they had not spent all this from the prior year, and that that was their goal, for this to accumulate so they could do multiple projects throughout the city. He stated that the Economic Development Funds were not earmarked for any part of the city, that as

projects come, and they saw that they had a return on investment for the community's tax dollars, and they added quality-of-life value to that sector of the city they were bringing that project, they would do everything they could to bring the Council a development agreement to see that that project would move forward.

Mr. Davis stated that he did not want to confuse the Council members and let them think that they had earmarked economic development for a certain part of the city, that they had not. He stated that the only place that one would find in the Capital Plan that they had an earmark was the North Parkway Redevelopment, that they had \$1.5 million for that in the current budget year.

Councilman Showers stated that he was talking about the Parkway, Oakwood Avenue, the intersection at Wade, and Builders Square, that he was talking about property beyond Sparkman Drive that went up to the Northern Bypass. He stated that, again, he was being redundant. He stated that they were saying that once they finished that in the following year, it was going to create opportunities.

Mr. Davis stated that that was absolutely correct.

Councilman Showers stated that he wanted to see the proposal. He stated that when they had dealt with this in 2012, that property up there, they did not have an urban renewal person on staff, but that at this time they had that person. He stated that he wanted to see some projections for

that area of the city, and that at this time there was nothing but just the idea up at the top, the 231/72, that the Northern Bypass was going to go from 53 over to 72. And that was all.

Mr. Davis stated that it was fully funded.

Councilman Showers stated that he understood that it was fully funded, and that he appreciated that, but he was saying that he needed the projection of what they were going to have on that end of town, because at this time they did not have anything. He stated that what he was hoping was that, just as they planned for these other areas, there would be additional projects on the northern end of town. He stated that on the next-to-the-last page of this presentation, Mr. Davis had several additional projects. He stated that he had a lot of confidence in Mr. Davis, that he believed he could develop the northern area of the city, and he wanted to see it on paper.

Councilman Showers stated that the Lantana Way, they were buying that with the \$1.5 million, and possibly Builders Square with some of that same money.

Mr. Davis stated that the Lantana real estate purchase to clean up the Parkway was in addition to the \$1.5 million in Redevelopment. He stated that the \$1.5 million in the North Parkway Redevelopment was for a project. He stated that the Lantana purchase was for just cleaning up some uneconomic remnants they had brought before the Council, and that it would not be coming out of those funds. He stated that this was in

addition to the \$1.5 million that was currently proposed in this Capital Plan.

Councilman Showers asked Mr. Davis where the \$1.5 million for the Northern Improvements would go.

Mr. Davis stated that as Councilman Showers had mentioned, they were working on a project, and they were not quite ready to go public as to what it would be, but that for the last 18 months, they had been working with a developer to redevelop the 13 acres at the Builders Square site. He stated that there were some logistics of leases that they had had to borrow time to get through, and that these persons were leaving. He stated that McMurray Motors had moved across the street, and the Dollar General was the only one remaining at the site. He stated that they believed the following year would be a very good year for that site, and they would be bringing before the Council a development agreement that they believed would be a very good mixed-use project. He stated that he would not say they were 100 percent there, but that they were way down the road on that site. He stated that that was part of the offset for what was in the Capital Plan.

Councilman Showers stated to Mr. Davis that he had just needed for him to bring that out, and that he was glad that he had brought it on out, because the public was asking him what they were going to do on that site.

Councilman Showers stated that he was going back to Oakwood and the Parkway, stating that there was some property

there that he was aware had been tied up, but he continued to be asked about that vacant building there. He stated that that was not the only vacant building in the city, that there were vacant buildings all over the city, but that that was one that had been obvious to the public, just sitting there. He continued that many persons remembered when it had been a grocery store, when it had been a liquor store, and on back. He stated that at this time, the public was asking what they were going to do with that site.

Mr. Davis stated that economic development, especially with retail, was very tough. He stated that in Alabama it was the most competitive thing that any city would do, noting that Ms. Sargent had shown them the percent breakdown of the revenue, and stated that Sales Tax dominated this. He stated that this was no different from anywhere in Alabama, that it was just how the State tax structure was and how to run a municipal government. He stated that it was very, very competitive. He stated that many times the citizens got anxious when things did not go as quickly as they would like, that persons were very impatient.

Mr. Davis stated that they had been very methodical in how they were going to attack the Parkway, and that it was working. He stated that they had attacked around Parkway Place Mall, that they had taken their strengths and built off those, those success stories, Whole Foods, Academy Sports. He stated that one could go back to 2004, with Costco and Home Depot, and

really making an investment there and building off those. He stated that he hoped citizens would see that they were making progress. He stated that they could not take that and jump two miles up the Parkway or two miles south. He stated that Councilwoman Robinson was concerned about Haysland Square, and they had a good plan for that.

Mr. Davis stated that they were marching toward Haysland Square, but they were also moving things toward Alabama A&M. He stated that at times he did not believe the public saw the big picture, if he could use a term from the Master Plan. He stated that over the prior five or six years, he could point to in about every year two or three projects along that corridor, with some of them being very grand and some being really small. He stated that it took singles and doubles and a grand slam, and that if one looked at the body of work over the next five or six years, they would have a ten-year span of very focused efforts on the Parkway, and that he believed the public would be very proud of it.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell stated to Mr. Davis that he had \$19.5 million set aside for Cummings Research Park, and he was certainly in favor of that, but he just wanted to warn him that he had not been in favor of some of the ideas that had been proposed on this, and that he was certainly not in favor of buying some of the property that had been discussed. He stated that he would vote in favor of this at this time, but that

Mr. Davis should not expect him to always vote affirmatively on this matter as they moved forward.

Councilman Russell stated that he had noticed that Airport Road had been left out of this discussion, and that persons knew that it was at capacity at this time. He stated that several years prior, there had been \$3 million in the Capital Budget to help with Airport Road, but that his colleagues had wanted to move that into the Operating Budget, to pay for employee raises, et cetera. He asked why this was not a need at this time, why all the roads out west and north were included, but Airport Road had been forgotten.

Mr. Davis stated that he believed if one looked at the map, they were fair and balanced with the funds and the number of roads, that he would not say all the capital was being spent out west. He stated that there were really only four projects west of Redstone Arsenal's border.

Mr. Davis stated that, however, they would focus on Airport Road.

Councilman Russell stated that his point was that there had been a need 10 years prior, and the Council had decided there was not a need, and he supposed Mr. Davis had also, and that at this time they were ignoring it for the next 10 years. He stated that he just could not believe that that was logical.

Mr. Davis stated that he wanted to explain how they developed transportation needs. He stated that they did modeling through the Metropolitan Planning Organization, that

the Planning staff did a phenomenal job modeling, and the Traffic Engineering Department did a phenomenal job in getting traffic counts, and that they updated these models, and that based on these models, they got a level of service for just about any road in Huntsville that was non-residential. He stated that Airport Road was there and Whitesburg Drive was there, that they had gotten put in the Plan years prior because the level of service was not great.

Mr. Davis stated that he was not saying that Airport Road did not need improvements, or Whitesburg Drive. He stated that those roads had been included, and that as they had gotten closer to a funding year, they had spent some Planning money to hire some engineers and do a layout, and that what they had found with Airport Road from Memorial Parkway to Whitesburg Drive was that the amount of right-of-way that would be required to get two additional lanes would, for the most part, eliminate the healthy retail corridor that it currently was. He stated that they had done a cost/benefit, the cost it would take, the amount of takings, and businesses that would close, just because they would be taking all of their parking or 70 percent of their parking. He continued that with some of them, they would have to take their business.

Mr. Davis stated that they had said that the benefit of adding two lanes for some heavy, heavy congestion in the mornings and evenings, and to really kind of strip a neighborhood, was not worth it. He stated that with the

benefit of moving a few more cars through there, in a less congested field, and annihilating a very healthy corridor portion of the city, they had backed up on that.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning how that project had gotten into the Capital Plan in the beginning, that it was all the way to the right, that it was in the 10th year when it first showed up, and that it was from that modeling. He stated that they were aware they had an issue there, and they were looking at other things as they moved forward. He stated that one of the projects they had looked at to replace that at one point in time was Four Mile Post, noting that the public was not greatly in favor of this. He stated that that would be taking Four Mile Post over to the Parkway, which he noted would alleviate a lot of the Airport Road traffic, but that it would be detrimental to a neighborhood.

Mr. Davis stated that they would continue to look at this and work with Engineering and Planning to find out if there was an alternative to ease some of this congestion. He stated as the City would densify and go more urban, the urban core would grow, so that Downtown would get very dense, and that as it densified, they would look at the outer ring to get a little more dense. He stated that that was what they had in the Medical District between Airport Road and Downtown, that it had always been very healthy and very dense.

Mr. Davis stated that some communities just had congested times within those top healthy districts. He continued that an

alternative to this would be for it not to be healthy and to change traffic patterns.

Mr. Davis stated, to answer Councilman Russell's question, that they would not disagree that something needed to be done, but the problem was that they believed the capital they would spend would be very detrimental to the community in that area, so that they had made the case to take that off and try to look at an alternative. He stated that they believed that with seven-laning Airport Road, due to the transmission lines on the north side, they would be talking about taking 35 to 40 feet from the edge of the pavement on the existing Airport Road, into the shopping centers and the churches on the south side, and that this would be very, very detrimental to that corridor.

Councilman Russell stated that he believed that was probably right, but noted that they had talked about smart traffic solutions, computerizing the lights, making sure everything was synced in the whole corridor, and that they were aware that that was going to cost millions of dollars. He asked why they were not planning for this.

Mr. Davis stated that he believed they had implemented that. He stated that they had what they called "hot spot corridors," and that Governors Drive was one and Airport Road was one, where they were making sure that the signals were in sync. He stated that they had added a new staff member position at Traffic Engineering, which they were currently advertising and filling, that would help do this. He stated

that University Drive was another one of these. He stated that on some of the major corridors, signalization in sync was something they were doing on a weekly basis. He stated that they were pretty reliable and pretty robust, but they did get out of sync.

Mr. Davis stated that one of the big problems they were having with Governors Drive, which he noted was a good thing and a bad thing, was that they were having more persons walk and ride bikes, and push pedestrian buttons, and that could get the traffic signalization out of sync. He stated that they were spending more time doing this, and that Airport Road was one of these, and that they would continue to do this. He stated that they believed they were about as optimized as they could get between the Parkway and Whitesburg Drive at this time.

Councilman Russell stated to Mr. Davis that he would continue this discussion at a later time.

President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated to Mr. Davis that he felt they had done the best job they could under the circumstances. He stated that he was still very disappointed in State government, noting that they had had promises from gubernatorial candidates that they would be getting 80 cents, and perhaps even more, of their gas tax returned in road projects, but now they felt like they were fortunate to have a road package with them, and that they hoped they did not renege on this. He continued that they

would be getting a 50-50 match from them, for basically doing road projects. He stated that they had done Governors Drive, Highway 72, University Drive West, and all these other projects, including the Parkway overpasses.

Councilman Kling stated that the city was getting overwhelmed with traffic, and he believed Airport Road was a very good example of this, as well as California and Whitesburg, the central area that would go from California around Bob Wallace, over to Airport Road, in that area. He stated that that area needed to be looked at as far as laneage.

Councilman Kling stated that he was kind of repeating himself, from what he had said before, but he was still wondering about the ring road plan, as to whether or not the system that was in the original 1990 Plan, if this were accelerated, would take some of the stress out of the inner areas of the city, what Councilman Showers had been talking about, Rideout Road, Rideout Road Extension, the Martin Luther King Expressway. He continued that he believed there had been a plan where it would go to Hampton Cove, and then eventually be the Southern Bypass. He stated that, of course, he understood about the cost of these things.

Councilman Kling stated that if a person could get from Point A to Point B by using the ring road more quickly than having to crawl through stop-and-go traffic in the central areas, he believed that would encourage persons to do that. He stated that, also, the outer areas would be opened up for new

development and new growth. He stated that he saw this, and then he saw what they had way over in the Greenbrier area, and he was wondering if they had their priorities set in the best possible way they could.

Mr. Davis stated that to answer Councilman Kling's question in simple form, the answer was yes. He stated that he did not know if they could see the mouse arrow on the screen, and he wished he had a laser. He continued that Councilman Kling had mentioned the ring road, and stated that if one looked at the pieces that were finished, that would be, in Hampton Cove, the Eastern Bypass, from 431 to 72; and the Northern Bypass, from Martin Luther King; and one would pick the ring road back up at 72, and traverse across 231. He continued that once one got to the point he was indicating, it was finished.

Mr. Davis stated that some persons knew this as Research Park Boulevard, or State Route 255. He stated that that portion of the ring road came all the way into the Arsenal gate at I-565. He stated that the East Arsenal Connector was the last leg of completing that ring, and it was funded at this time, should the Council pass the budget. He continued that it would bring that back into 231, and ultimately, for the last leg, they would like to see the State, probably with an MPO project, taking Hobbs Island Road back into 431. He stated that this would take a lot of that commuter traffic and push it on the ring.

Mr. Davis stated that there was something he wanted to bring up about Governors Drive and Councilman Russell's concern about Airport Road and Whitesburg Drive, because there was a lot of construction going on, that there was a lot of active construction. He stated that they had changed traffic patterns in the prior 24 months, that 72 East had been a disaster, and that a lot of that traffic had cut through Gurley, the Eastern Bypass, and hit Governors Drive, or 431, or had gone over Cecil Ashburn and pushed a lot of clogging into some other areas, so that Governors Drive had taken attacks.

Mr. Davis stated that he commuted that corridor every morning and every afternoon, and he had seen a change. He stated that he did not believe all of this was due to growth, that he believed a lot of it was that there was a lot of construction in South Huntsville that persons were trying to bypass, the east side of the city; and that starting the following year, people from the North were going to try to find alternate routes, in order to bypass the Parkway and the Northern Bypass. He stated that out west was the same, with the Zierdt Road construction and Martin Road.

Mr. Davis stated that two years from this time, when a lot of these projects were complete, they would see them redo a model and retake some traffic counts, and that some of their priorities might change. He stated that, however, at this time, if one looked at the first three years, they knew that they were priorities that would not change. He stated that in

the Capital Plan, in some of the outer years, they were visionary projects. He stated that this was the first time in their history that they were going to take visionary projects, and that there was a list of approximately 108 of these, if one looked at the MPO Master Transportation Plan.

Mr. Davis stated that they had not added a new project in years, and they had 11 new ones, significant money, \$150 million on top of the \$250 million that were under construction. He stated that he believed they would see dramatic traffic patterns.

Mr. Davis stated that they were asking for patience, stating that he believed as they got through the next 24 months, and they completed some of these projects and traffic patterns got back to normal, some of their traffic models might change, and that they would look into some of these things. He stated that it was a headache at this time, not only to the Council members but also to himself, as well as the public.

Mr. Davis stated that the best thing to say was that this was a moving, wide Capital Plan. He stated that the following year, they might add another project, or move one out that was at this time in 2026, because the traffic patterns would change. He stated that, if so, they would bring this before the Council and explain why they had done it. He stated that a lot of the projects that were past five years, they knew that they needed to happen, but that priorities might change and

they might slip to a lower priority. He stated that something might not be on the list of the 108 priority projects. He stated that they would do the best they could with the taxpayers' money, to get return on investment and get the traffic system as good as they could get it.

President Culver asked if there were any further questions or comments concerning this matter from the Council members.

There was no response.

President Culver moved for a recess until 8:20, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously approved.

(Recess.)

President Culver reconvened the meeting.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Resolutions for Adoption Only.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution recognizing the 5th Annual Pink Ribbon Gala, presented by Beta Epsilon Sigma Chapter of Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc., to be held Saturday, October 1, 2016, at the Von Braun Center, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-684)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he would be presenting the

above resolution, on behalf of the Council and the Mayor, at the event on October 1.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution congratulating 100 Black Men of America, Greater Huntsville Chapter, as the Civic and Community STEM Awardee for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc., 5th Annual Scholarship Gala, to be held in the Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall, Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, on September 29, 2016, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-685)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Russell and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he would be presenting the above resolution at the event on September 29, on behalf of the Council and the Mayor.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution congratulating Representative Laura Hall as the Inspiring Young Minds to Succeed STEM Awardee for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc., 5th Annual Scholarship Gala, to be held in the Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall, Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, on September 29, 2016, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-686)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilman Russell and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he would be presenting the above resolution, on behalf of the Council and the Mayor, at the event on September 29.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution congratulating Mrs. Tessie Lee Davis Horace as the Lifetime Achievement STEM Awardee for the Union Chapel Christian Academy Foundation, Inc., 5th Annual Scholarship Gala, to be held in the Boone-Lacey Fellowship Hall, Union Chapel Missionary Baptist Church, on September 29, 2016, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-687)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he would also be presenting the above resolution at the event on September 29, on behalf of the Council and the Mayor.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Other Special Recognitions, and recognized Councilman Kling, noting that he had a guest present at the meeting.

Councilman Kling stated that they were fortunate to have with them for this meeting Mr. Grady Gaston, who had been the high bidder at the benefit auction at the Huntsville-Madison

County Senior Center to serve as an honorary Councilperson. He stated that he had a certificate to present to Mr. Gaston, designating him as an Honorary Council Member for a Night. He continued that he would like to give Mr. Gaston the opportunity to have the microphone, noting that he might have some observations he would like to make after sitting with them for the prior 2 ½ hours.

Mr. Gaston expressed appreciation to Councilman Kling. He stated that he was really honored to be with the Council. He stated that they had raised approximately \$50,000 at that event at the Senior Center. He stated that he would like to be able to say that this was a large part of it, but that, actually, he had been one of the few who had bid on this opportunity.

Mr. Gaston stated that he was extremely impressed with how the City was governed, and he would like to say that the City was very well represented, that each district was very well represented on the Council.

President Culver thanked Mr. Gaston for his comments and welcomed him to the meeting.

President Culver asked if there was any other special recognition.

There was no response.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Announcements.

President Culver stated that as the Council members were already aware, agenda item 4.a.2 had been deleted. He stated

that, also, item 15.gg had been deleted.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Public Hearings to be Held.

President Culver stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on Ordinance No. 16-565, rezoning property lying on the south side of Hardiman Road and on the east side of Segers Road from Neighborhood Business C-1 District to Residence 2 District, which hearing was set at the August 11, 2016, Regular Council Meeting.

President Culver recognized Ms. Ashley Nichols of the Planning Department.

Ms. Nichols stated that the above property was approximately 11.48 acres, and that it was located on the south side of Hardiman Road and the east side of Segers Road. She stated that the property was currently zoned Neighborhood Business C-1 District. She continued that the developer of the adjacent Olde Cobblestone Subdivision currently had a contract to purchase this property, and that under the current zoning designation, he could not construct single-family, detached homes, so they would like to have this property rezoned from Neighborhood Business C-1 District to Residence 2 District, which she noted was consistent with the adjacent zoning of Olde Cobblestone Subdivision.

President Culver asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular matter.

There was no response.

President Culver stated that the public hearing was closed.

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of Ordinance No. 16-565, rezoning property lying on the south side of Hardiman Road and on the east side of Segers Road from Neighborhood Business C-1 District to Residence 2 District, which ordinance was introduced at the August 11, 2016, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-565)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above ordinance.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Ordinance No. 16-565, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on Ordinance No. 16-567, zoning newly annexed property lying south of Hobbs Island Road and north of Bill Matthews Road as Residence 2-A District, which hearing was set at the August 11, 2016, Regular Council Meeting.

President Culver recognized Ms. Nichols.

Ms. Nichols stated that the above property was newly annexed property, consisting of approximately 29.17 acres. She stated that the proposed zoning designation for the property

was Residence 2-A District, which she noted was consistent with the adjacent Butler Basin Subdivision. She stated that the property was currently a proposed single-family, detached subdivision, consisting of 93 lots.

President Culver asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular matter.

There was no response.

President Culver stated that the public hearing was closed.

President Culver moved for approval of Ordinance No. 16-567, zoning newly annexed property lying south of Hobbs Island Road and north of Bill Matthews Road as Residence 2-A District, which ordinance was introduced at the August 11, 2016, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-567)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers. President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above ordinance.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell asked Ms. Nichols if she knew the school zone for this property.

Ms. Nichols stated that she was not certain as to the elementary school, but she believed it was Challenger, and that the high school should be Grissom.

Councilman Russell asked Ms. Nichols if they were seeing

more development coming in because of the new Grissom High School.

Ms. Nichols stated that that was one primary reason for this property owner wanting to annex in this property, that they would like to have City schools, as well as having requested City services.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Ordinance No. 16-567, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on Ordinance No. 16-571, rezoning property lying on the north side of Meadows Boulevard and east of Old Highway 431 from Residence 1-A District to Residence 2-B District, which hearing was set at the August 11, 2016, Regular Council Meeting.

President Culver recognized Ms. Nichols.

Ms. Nichols stated that the above property was approximately 7.02 acres, and that it was currently zoned Residence 1-A District, noting that it had received this specific zoning designation in the mid-2000s, under a previous developer. She stated that the subdivision had actually had several zoning designations, because the previous developer had wanted to do multiple different products. She stated that the current developer had requested that this property be rezoned

to Residence 2-B District, which she noted was consistent with the adjacent Residence 2-B property, which she noted was highlighted in blue on the display. She stated that they would like to do a proposed, single-family, attached product, which would be a part of The Meadows at Hampton Cove Subdivision.

President Culver asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular matter.

There was no response.

President Culver stated that the public hearing was closed.

Councilman Showers moved for approval of Ordinance No. 16-571, rezoning property lying on the north side of Meadows Boulevard and east of Old Highway 431 from Residence 1-A District to Residence 2-B District, which ordinance was introduced at the August 11, 2016, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-571)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above ordinance.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell asked Ms. Nichols, concerning the Residence 2-B District zoning, if the developer had agreed to build just single-family houses.

Ms. Nichols replied in the affirmative. She stated that

they were not interested in multi-family, although Residence 2-B did accommodate multi-family, as well as some other uses. She stated that they were interested only in the single-family, attached. She stated that she believed they currently had a layout design they were working on on the current Residence 2-B portion, and they would need to rezone the remaining property so that they could complete that design.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above ordinance.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Ordinance No. 16-571, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver stated that it was the time and place in the meeting for a public hearing on a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of the cutting and removing of grass and weeds against certain properties.

President Culver recognized Ms. Michelle Jordan, Director of Community Development.

Ms. Jordan stated that the resolution identified 29 properties that were in violation of the City's grass and weed ordinance. She stated that 20 of these properties were owned by persons in the city, and 9 were owned by persons outside the city. She stated that the properties were identified on Attachment A, by the owner and location. She stated that the owners had received written notification, by regular mail, that they were in violation of the City's

ordinance and had been given 14 days to correct the violation. She stated that all 29 owners had failed to respond, and that Community Development had issued work orders and cut the grass.

Ms. Jordan stated that the owners had received a written request, by regular mail, for payment, and they had all failed to respond. She continued that she was requesting that property assessments be placed on these properties.

President Culver asked if there was anyone in the audience who would like to address the Council on this particular matter.

There was no response.

President Culver stated that the public hearing was closed.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to assess the cost of the cutting and removing of grass and weeds against certain properties, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-688)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Russell.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Resolution No. 16-688, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Public. He stated that as persons' names were called, they should position themselves at a microphone, and they would have approximately three minutes in which to address the Council. He asked that persons state their name and address for the record.

Mr. Ocie Maddox, Jr., 122 Word Lane, Harvest, appeared before the Council, stating that he would be speaking concerning a situation that had taken place at the Richard Showers Center. He stated that he was coming before the Council as a broadcaster, that he had attended the Columbia School of Broadcasting and had worked as a broadcaster.

Mr. Maddox stated that on September 20, 2016, there had been an event that had taken place, and they had had with them Charisma III, noting that they had presented their plans to the Council back in 2012, concerning the land where they wanted to build a new development. He stated that they had been contacted, and this company wanted to use the Showers Center, and so they had set things up with them, for Mr. Danny Johnson and his associates.

Mr. Maddox stated that everything had been set, that the room was at half court, and it was pretty packed. He stated that he was appalled at what had taken place from the local media, Channel 48 and Channel 31, which he noted were all stations that he knew and knew persons who had worked for them. He stated that he was appalled at how these persons had

attacked Councilman Richard Showers, noting that this was not Councilman Showers' meeting, that it was a Charisma III meeting, to talk with the public concerning the development that was going on on Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. He stated that he was so embarrassed and hurt, that they had treated Councilman Showers, as well as their guests from Charisma III, with abhorrence. He stated that the way they treated this situation was just deplorable.

Mr. Maddox stated that he had lived in this town, that he had grown up in Huntsville, in the North section, in 1968, and that he had come back home to see something like this. He stated that they had just had Magic Johnson at his church, at Oakwood University, who had basically given them \$550,000.

Mr. Maddox stated that he wanted to make the point very clear that he had never seen anything like this before in his life, the way that they had covered the news. He stated that he was going to contact the FCC, that it needed to be done. He stated that he did not live in District 1 any more, but his mother did. He stated that he just did not like the way things were going at this time. He stated that they needed to get Charisma III back in this room, that these people were looking for developments, and that Huntsville was growing, that he loved the way it looked at this time.

Mr. Maddox stated that, however, District 1 was suffering and asked that they please do something. He stated that they should stop these persons from running up to Councilman Showers

like he was somebody who had just turned over a billion dollars. He continued that they had the cameras all in his face. He stated that Councilman Showers had needed protection that night, in front of all the people. He stated that this had scared him.

Mr. Maddox asked that the Council please do something about this.

President Culver stated that, as the Council members were aware, any Council member could contact the Chair in reference to any work session they might be interested in, and that he would certainly honor such requests. He stated that even if the Chair did not honor such a request, two Council members, by ordinance guidelines, could move forward with such meeting.

Ms. Yolonda Sales, 2010 Lance Road, appeared before the Council, stating that she had an appeal for the Mayor, Mr. Tommy Battle. She stated that he said, "One Vision, One City" all the time, and that they had supported him over the years. She stated that they would just like to have his presence to be more notable at the activities that they happened to have in District 1 if that would be possible. She asked Mr. Hamilton if he could suggest that to him. She stated that they would just like for his presence to be a little bit more in District 1 when they did have important events, for economic development, or whatever they tired to do in District 1.

President Culver asked Mr. Hamilton if he would like to

address Ms. Sales' request.

Mr. Hamilton stated that for anyone, regardless as to any particular part of the city, or various civic organizations, et cetera, he believed the Mayor put a great deal of effort into trying to be present throughout the community. He stated that, obviously, he did have a very busy schedule, but that he spent a great deal of time at such events.

Mr. Hamilton stated to Ms. Sales that if there were events she was particularly interested in, the Mayor's scheduler was Ms. Carol Atchley, and that the way their email addresses were constructed at the City, it was a person's first name, dot, last name @ huntsvilleal.gov. He stated that Ms. Atchley would work very hard to get such events lined up. He stated that Ms. Sales was also certainly welcome to email him if there were to be an event that the Mayor could not attend but perhaps he could. He stated that they worked very hard to have a representation at such events. He stated that he would encourage Ms. Sales to send such invitations to Ms. Atchley as early as possible, noting that they would sometimes get an invitation two days out, and it would just be too late to get it scheduled. He continued that if Ms. Sales would make an attempt to schedule such events far enough in advance, Mayor Battle would certainly make a real attempt to attend.

Mr. Chris Baker, 217 Harlans Circle, appeared before the Council, stating that he had a barber shop in Northwest Huntsville, in District 1. He stated that his concern at this

time was that several months prior, there had been a meeting about some development in Huntsville, talking about a hotel and the expansion of Kroger in Huntsville. He stated that from the last meeting they had had, it seemed like it was off the table about the hotel coming to Northwest Huntsville, District 1, and he was just wondering if there were any negotiations going on between the City of Huntsville and any hotel chains about a hotel coming to North Huntsville. He stated that he would also like to know about the expansion of Kroger, noting that they had talked about it at a community meeting they had had a couple of months prior.

Mr. Davis appeared at the microphone, stating that he would like to address Mr. Baker's questions. He stated that this matter had been addressed at a Town Hall meeting a month or so prior. He continued that negotiations both for an update of Kroger at Oakwood and some additional retail in that center were ongoing. He stated that on many of the retail projects, once they were announced, persons would hear him say that they had worked it for three years or four years.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning a hotel along that corridor, that those discussions were very active. He stated that there was not anything on this that he could state specifically at this time. He stated that a lot of times, these entities did not want their names disclosed, because they might be publicly traded entities. He stated that as he continued to say, they had many projects along the Parkway, in that entire corridor

stretch, that were active. He stated that he spent about 70 percent of his day doing those type things, week in and week out. He stated that it was very tough, but that they were vigilant with it, and that those activities were ongoing and the conversations would continue.

President Culver recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they had spent a good bit of time earlier in the meeting talking about economic development, and they had had citizens, not only at this time, but at other times, approach them about economic development and how they pursued this, so that he felt it might be useful to just take a few minutes to talk a little bit about the process.

Mr. Hamilton stated that oftentimes he would talk to citizens who might have seen a housing development being built, and they would ask, "Why is the City building those houses?" He stated that the answer was that the City was not building those houses, that it was a private, residential developer that was building the houses. He stated that the City had a role to play in zoning the land, and they had a role to play in the public infrastructure, but the City did not build private housing developments. He stated that, also, the same was true of shopping centers. He stated that persons had asked him why the City was building a grocery store. He stated that the City had never built a grocery store, and he did not expect it to ever build a grocery store, although they might have a role to play in some of the public infrastructure and such.

Mr. Hamilton stated that earlier in the week, they had had a developer interested in doing a project to come and sit down with Mr. Davis and himself and talk about it. He stated that that was a good example of how the process worked. He stated that this person was a private developer who had control over the property, that he had a contract to purchase the property, and he had financiers line up, prepared to finance the project; and he had already contracted with an architect and civil engineers to do the initial designs of the facility he wanted to build, but he felt that he might need some partnership from the City, so he had met with him and Mr. Davis to talk about the process and the help that he might need from the City.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this might or might not turn out to be a viable project, but that Mr. Davis would spend many hours working with this developer, to work through the details and determine whether or not this would be a viable project for the community or one in which the City might want to participate. He stated that if the City participated in it, if they came to the Council with a proposed development agreement for the City to put some sort of resources into, which might be actual cash or some sort of in-kind services, things that had been seen in other development agreements, the City's contribution would be a very, very small minority of the resources that would go into the development.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Council had approved development agreements where the City's contribution was

\$5 million, and that they talked about that \$5 million a lot, that it seemed like a big number, except that the private developer had brought private funding of \$150 million.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the City was open to any developer, any property owner that believed they had a viable project. He stated that such persons should come and sit down and talk with them, and that they would go through what it would take to partner with the City and help persons understand what it might take to do a development. He stated that they did this pretty routinely, that Mr. Davis did the vast majority of it, but sometimes he got pulled into it, and sometimes the Mayor got pulled into it. He stated that, however, 99 percent of the time, such persons started with Mr. Davis, and that he would bring it to a level of maturity so that it would be ready to bring before the Council.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they would love to see these things all over the city, that he had seen renderings and people talking about different developments in different places, North Huntsville, East Huntsville, West Huntsville, South Huntsville, and that those were things they would love to have. He stated that they would put just as much effort into each of them, regardless of where they were located. He stated that a lot of time developers brought them projects that were just not viable projects, but that they would put every bit of due diligence into it they could, in trying to bring it to fruition if it were a good thing for the city.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he would encourage those persons who owned property or had control of property and had a desire to do a development and believed they needed to work with the City in order to bring it to fruition to start with Mr. Davis, that he was the entry point, and that ultimately he would bring it to the Council for their decision. He stated that any resources that they might allocate were certainly at the Council's discretion, on any recommendation that was brought before them. He stated that Mr. Davis would certainly work day and night, seven days a week, to bring these kind of projects before the Council, as long as they were truly good for the community.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the place to start was with Mr. Davis, not so much at the Council, although ultimately the Council had to vote on it. He continued that that would be later in the process. He stated that he would encourage any developers who were out there, watching or listening, that if they had the possibility of a project, to give Mr. Davis a call.

President Culver thanked Mr. Davis and Mr. Hamilton for the clarification on this matter.

President Culver stated that as it related to what Councilman Showers had been communicating to the public, it had not been fluff. He continued that with any Council member, when they were talking about what was happening in their district, it was not just fluff, that there was something to

it. He stated that he believed the general public needed to understand this. He stated that sometimes Council members could not divulge things because of the nondisclosure agreements, but that did not mean that it was not in the making.

Mr. Michael Jennings, 3815 Millbrae Drive, appeared before the Council, stating that he wanted to reiterate a couple of things that had been said. He stated that it was appalling the way the news media, especially Channel 48, had biasedly and negatively reported the news the last few days, pertaining to his councilman, Dr. Richard Showers, Sr. He stated that everyone had seen it, that persons had seen their reporting, and that it was wrong, biased, and was just terrible. He stated that he was hopeful that someone would file some type of complaint against them for the type of reporting they had done, as Mr. Maddox had said.

Mr. Jennings stated that there were a lot of things that District 1 wanted, that every district wanted something.

Mr. Jennings stated that Charisma III had come to the City, and that it was his understanding they had come in 2012. He stated that it was his understanding that this time they wanted to come and get public support. He stated that, as Mr. Hamilton had said, it would be good to get the public support, but also to come to Mr. Davis, whom he noted was a very fair person, and get his support and get the City's support.

Mr. Jennings stated that he would hope the City would want to look at any program to see if it would be feasible for that district, to see if it was feasible for that development, and for persons to understand that the City does not build stores, it does not build hotels. He stated that different entities came in, and that hopefully the City could give them some support to build in a particular district. He stated that the fact that they had people who wanted to come to District 1 and build in District 1 and get their support was good for them, so they appreciated Charisma III coming.

Mr. Jennings stated that, however, to make that look like it was a Dr. Showers meeting was wrong. He stated that Councilman Showers had always fought for his district, just as he had at this meeting, and that his constituents were aware of that, that every Councilperson fought for his or her district. He stated that they would hope that soon they could have an announcement of additional grocery stores and a hotel. He stated that there was a hotel going up in Providence at this time, a Hampton Inn, and that that was good for Providence.

Mr. Jennings stated that they understood about nondisclosure agreements. He stated that Channel 48 had said they called A&M. He stated that A&M did not built the fire station, that they donated the land, and the City had built the fire station. He stated that A&M was not building a hotel, but that hopefully they would have a hotel, as well as other ventures, in District 1, and that businesses, regardless of

what grocery store chain or what businesses, would decide to locate in their district.

Mr. Jennings stated that they were hopeful that they would get some future development, with all that they were getting. He stated that, as Mr. Davis had said, there had been a lot of development in District 1, as well as in the other districts in the city. He stated that Huntsville was growing dramatically. He continued that to say that nothing was being done in any district was just plain false.

Mr. Jennings stated that he wanted to say to the Council that they appreciated their support, and that he wanted to say to Charisma III to get with Mr. Davis, as well as to say that to any other developer who wanted to develop in District 1, and that hopefully they could get some major developments.

Ms. Jackie Reed, Jack Coleman Drive, appeared before the Council, stating that she had been attending Council meetings for 30 years, and she had never seen a budget taken on like she had at this meeting. She stated that they did not live by it, anyway. She continued that they used to have work sessions to go over the budget, and they would have employees and directors tell them what they needed, that they had just had a better way of doing things. She stated that she hated to say that, but at this meeting it had been a nightmare.

Ms. Reed thanked the Council for allowing the public to speak. She stated that she had a real, real problem with the budget, noting that she did not think they were paying the

employees enough, that two percent was just a little grasp on the one percent that they had given them the prior year, and that it was not good.

Ms. Reed stated that the City could give property away. She continued that she had heard all the speeches they had made previously in the meeting, and that they were preaching, that they were really preaching, but that she was doing the talking. She stated that when they gave a piece of property away across the street from the Federal Courthouse, \$5 million, or no telling how much, and they built them a parking garage, and leased it to them for 20 years, for \$100 a year, and then they gave them about 45 more years, all she could say was "Help."

Ms. Reed stated that they had torn up Big Spring Park, which was a lie. She stated that it had been promised eight or ten years prior, when the Senior Center had been torn down, that they were going to not do anything else to that Park, that they were going to preserve it and keep it. She stated that two of the Council members had been serving on the Council when that had occurred. She stated that she had missed her grandson's first birthday because of that big bank building, that she had been at the meeting where they were trying to save Big Spring Park, but it had not happened.

Ms. Reed stated that she had heard what Mr. Hamilton had told the Council about the Park, and that she had gone over to the Park, and it was totally opposite from what she had thought it was going to be. She stated that rocks had been poured in

there, taking the water down.

Ms. Reed stated that she did not know who was running the City, but she wanted to talk to them about some of the money they gave away. She stated that there was \$90,000 to Downtown Huntsville, Inc. She asked who they were and what they did for the Council and the Mayor. She stated that she believed they were running the City. She stated that she also saw that they kept raising the amount to the Chamber of Commerce, noting that they had recently given them \$195,000 to go out and do Cummings Research Park. She continued that she was still fighting them on Cummings Research Park.

Ms. Reed stated that she had seen \$11 million on Holmes Avenue. She asked if they were going to put a train down Holmes Avenue, where she lived. She stated that she had never heard of such carrying on. She stated that a lot of that stuff was fake, that they did not live by it, that they put it up there, and they meant good and well, but when they came in with these projects, they sat up there like the School Board and said amen to them, and then they passed them. She stated that, however, when there was an election coming up, someone always asked some questions.

Ms. Reed stated that Channel 19 and Channel 31 were to be thanked, because they did interview each one of the mayoral candidates, she believed. She stated that they had interviewed her. She continued, however, that her picture or name was never mentioned on al.com or in "The Huntsville Times." She

stated that she did not know who had bought them off and stopped that, but that somebody had, and that it was okay, that she was still helping to run the City from the microphone, that she did not have to be voted for. She stated that she would let persons take care of how they had voted, and she would do the rest of it.

Ms. Reed asked that items 14.c, 15.t, and 15.v be held from the consolidation. She stated that now they were going to do cafes out in the streets. She asked what else they were going to do in the city, if they were going to let persons drink all night, move the hours up on them.

Ms. Reed stated that she had a lot to talk about, and she would be back at the end of the meeting.

President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he would like to commend the Administration, noting that technology changed, that things changed over time. He continued that when he and Councilman Showers had first come on the Council, they would sit at the work sessions and go over the budget very slowly, and that perhaps they would have 30 citizens who would come down to those meetings. He reiterated that technology changed, noting that at this time rather than doing written memos, they could text out things with their phones.

Councilman Kling stated that at this meeting, they had gone over the budget for about two hours, and that this meeting had been opened up to many, many persons throughout the

community, that this might be one of the top two or three meetings of the entire year, because this was a discussion of the budget, the game plan for the year.

Councilman Kling stated that they had had a detailed presentation by Ms. Sargent, Mr. Hamilton, and Mr. Davis on what they were doing, and that they had thrashed out things, very spontaneously, about road projects, et cetera. He stated that it was not pretty, but they were doing things the way they were supposed to, that there were no secret meetings. He stated that the fact that they were able to do all of this in a televised meeting, for the public, who could watch it in their living rooms, he believed was a good thing, that he thought it was a better way to do things, to have an outreach to the public versus having work sessions that perhaps 30 or 35 persons would actually want to come down and attend. He stated that he believed they should keep this up, that they were trying to reach the public, and that was the way it should be.

Pastor T.C. Johnson, 1800 Sparkman Drive, appeared before the Council, stating that he wanted to thank them and the Administration for progressive steps that had been made to support Huntsville's claim of being a progressive city when they had proactively deployed the body cameras. He stated that the present camera system was turned on manually and asked what the policy was that detailed when an officer must turn his body cam on. He stated that this was pertaining to at this time, the body cams they had, if there was a policy that said

an officer had to have the body cam turned on. He asked if they had a plan to inform the public as to how this body cam system worked as it related to when a citizen could request to review their encounter with an officer.

Pastor Johnson stated that he was glad they had brought up diversity. He continued that he had been almost sleepless watching Charlotte during the week. He stated that one of the things he had noticed was that it was difficult to find a black officer trying to help contain that crowd, and that that crowd was predominantly black. He stated that he would look at this again later in the evening. He stated that he was aware that the police chief was black. He stated that Ferguson had been wise in pulling in a black face that they thought would be able to relate and be able to be unbiased. He stated that they were hearing that white officers feared blacks, for whatever reason, and that surely that was not the case with black officers.

Pastor Johnson stated that it might be wise for Huntsville to consider not only putting more blacks on the force, but that where they deployed them might be important, as well, because they were not having as many shootings around the nation where blacks were shooting whites or blacks were shooting blacks.

Pastor Johnson stated that if that was a problem, he thought they could fix it if they thought along those lines. He stated that if that were the case, if whites had biases and thought that blacks were automatically dangerous, and that that was not happening with blacks, as one could see around the

nation, it might be something for a progressive, leading city like Huntsville to think along those lines and see what they could do to make that work.

Pastor Johnson stated that in Ferguson, when they had brought the black trooper on, he had been able to de-escalate the situation a lot better than the other officers. He stated that that was something they needed to look at.

Pastor Johnson stated that another thing was that he believed, as a proactive city, it would be wise for the Police Department and the Administration to have forums with citizens so they could talk about how they could possibly prevent Huntsville from becoming how Charlotte had become, noting that this had tarnished their name pretty well. He asked why they were not talking to the citizens and getting input and listening to the citizens, and saying what would happen if this happened. He stated that they could tell the citizens at this time that if something like this happened, this would be what they were going to do, that they should tell them in advance rather than trying to make it up as they went.

Pastor Johnson stated that they had talked about the American Tire Manufacturing going up, and they had been told that Councilman Showers had known about this. He stated that he was complaining because citizens were talking about they had not known it was going up at that location. He stated that they were aware of the zoning, but they were concerned with the transportation, with big trucks there next to the school, where

there was primarily family housing and things such as that. He stated that he wanted to know what Councilman Showers had known about this.

President Culver asked if the Chief of Police was still in attendance at the meeting.

Mr. Hamilton stated that Chief McMurray was not present, that he had had to attend another event.

President Culver asked Mr. Hamilton if he could address Pastor Johnson's concerns.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he did not have the policy in front of him, so he was not going to attempt to quote anything, but he would like to give Pastor Johnson an expression of intent, and then they could get together later and talk in more detail.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the intent was that any time an officer was coming into a situation where they were interacting with a citizen, particularly if something was suspected to be wrong, they should have their body cam on. He stated that he was stopping short of saying for every single interaction, because, literally, someone could walk up to a police officer and ask for directions, and that in that event, there would not necessarily be the expectation of the officer turning on his body cam to capture that. He stated that perhaps that would sound like a simple example, but the reality was that the police officers were engaging with citizens in those kinds of routine, friendly conversations all the time.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there were a lot of police-citizen interactions that were very positive, and that they would not necessarily expect every single one of those to be captured on a body cam. He stated that there was risk associated with that, and that as they matured in the program, they might find ways of changing that, or tweaking it a little bit. He stated that, certainly, any time an officer had stopped someone, or an officer suspected that there might be something wrong, they would certainly expect to see the camera turned on at those points in time.

Mr. Hamilton stated that he could not specifically cite the policy for Pastor Johnson at this time, but that he would be happy to sit down and talk with him about it.

Mr. Hamilton stated that, in terms of engaging with the public, that particularly over the prior two or three months, just because of the very things Pastor Johnson had talked about, there had been a real increase, in this community, and most likely in every community in America, in terms of forums, oftentimes hosted by private organizations.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Mayor, himself, the City Attorney, and leadership from throughout the Police Department, from entry-level police officers all the way up through the Chief, had been participating in a significant number of forums. He continued that many of these were hosted by churches, noting that they really appreciated the way in which the faith community had sought to be part of the solution and

part of the leadership in addressing these kinds of issues, and that he believed it was important that they continue to do this. He stated that that was one way in which the kind of dialogue that Pastor Johnson was describing occurred. He stated that these kinds of events should continue, that that was part of the conversation.

Mr. Hamilton stated that other parts of the conversation were events such as the Police had hosted, along with the Housing Authority, which they referred to as "Why Police Do What They Do." He stated that there were some very interactive programs which gave citizens the opportunity to go through some of the same decision-making processes the police had to go through. He continued that these persons would have to decide whether or not they pulled the trigger on their simulated weapon. He continued that they got to go through some simulated traffic stops and learn how those things worked.

Mr. Hamilton stated to Pastor Johnson that he believed it would be great for his church to host one of these events, where they would bring the police out and run through those kinds of simulations, where they could get the public involved so that they could kind of walk in the shoes of police officers. He continued that while they would be doing this, they would have the opportunity to engage with police officers, who would be able to see how they responded, and then there could be some positive dialogue.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they would also love to do this

at schools. He stated that part of the reason the Housing Authority had done it was specifically a focus on youth events, and getting teenagers and other kids engaging with the police in a positive environment.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they were doing these things, but they needed to do more, that they agreed with Pastor Johnson. He stated that they could accelerate this through improved partnerships with private organizations that wanted to host such an event and provide a facility. He stated that the Police Department would be happy to do that. He continued that they would encourage Pastor Johnson and other faith leaders and civic organizations to reach out to the Police Department and start these conversations.

Mr. Hamilton stated that there was no simple solution to this issue, that they were dealing with human beings that came into situations from different perspectives, different cultures, and different opinions, that they had not all walked in each other's shoes. He stated, concerning the decisions he had to make in his role of guiding the Police Department, that he had called in some of the senior leaders they had talked about that were minorities and had asked them why they thought certain things had happened in a community, and that he would tell them how he was thinking on a particular matter. He stated that that was how they learned from each other in these situations. He stated that there were realities that they had to talk about, that persons came from different places in the

world and were influenced by different things.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this was exactly why Councilman Showers asked about diversity, that every year, and often more than once a year, he was checking on the level of diversity, noting that it mattered. He continued that it was not just diversity based on race, that there were other demographic metrics that were used to measure diversity, and they wanted to hit all those things.

Mr. Hamilton stated that they were concerned about the number of African Americans they had in the Police Department, that it was not enough. He continued that they were also concerned about the number of Hispanics. He stated that they had a lot of catching up to do. He stated that they also needed more women in the Police Department. He stated that there were a number of ways of measuring diversity, and that those things mattered to them, and they were working hard on it, but there were not any easy solutions.

Mr. Hamilton stated to Pastor Johnson that he believed the questions he was asking were great, and they were exactly the same things they were focused on.

President Culver recognized Deputy Chief Kirk Giles, asking if he would like to comment on this matter.

Deputy Chief Giles stated that he did not believe he could answer it any better than what Mr. Hamilton had said, that he was spot on with everything, from the body cams to the training, especially the cultural diversity they were trying to

achieve in their department.

Deputy Chief Giles stated that Chief McMurray had mentioned earlier that they were expecting fewer than half the number for the Academy than they normally had. He stated that he believed this was a lot due to the climate that was going on in the country, that no one was beating their doors down wanting to become a police officer. He continued that, to be quite honest, there were most likely some police officers who were wondering if they wanted to continue to be a police officer, the way things were going.

Deputy Chief Giles stated that they welcomed dialogues such as Mr. Hamilton had mentioned, noting that Deputy Chief Harris was attending one at this time. He stated that they welcomed and encouraged such dialogue. He stated that, with the Police advisory board, they had been to community Town Hall meetings, and that many times very few persons, if anyone, showed up for the meeting.

Deputy Chief Giles stated that that could be looked at in two ways, as apathy or that they were doing a very good job. He stated that, however, they knew there was always room for improvement, and they loved these dialogues. He stated that "Why Police Do What They Do" was a wonderful program. He stated that there were some persons who were a little reluctant to participate, because it was something different, but that once they did, it really opened their eyes, and that was another basis for the dialogue they continued to have. He

stated that it was not that they were looking for sympathy, but they were trying to understand where citizens were coming from, and, at the same time, they were trying to get citizens to understand where they were coming from.

President Culver recognized Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that he would like to just touch on Pastor Johnson's second question, concerning the economic industrial development project off Jordan Lane. He stated that that project had caught them a little off guard in starting construction. He stated that as they competed for any industrial development project, once they were notified an entity was coming to the community, they would typically leave it up to the company as far as an announcement was concerned, that on their part mum was the word.

Mr. Davis stated that Councilman Showers had been kept much in the loop of that project and its location, and then the company had just slipped in and said that they were not going to do a real fancy ceremony, that they were going to do a large ribbon-cutting. He stated that Polaris had kind of done the same thing, that they had not done a large groundbreaking ceremony, because they wanted to hit the ground and get opened. He stated that this project was very similar to that, and that there would be a very large ribbon-cutting, and that they would welcome the community to come and see that in the upcoming year.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning the traffic patterns, that

Mastin Lake Road was a major collector and Jordan Lane was a major arterial. He stated that this would be a distribution center, and the deliveries in and out would not traverse east of their location. He continued that Dawson Elementary School was east of that location, so they would not traverse past the school to get to that location. He stated that this had been very important to the city. He stated that persons would come off Jordan Lane to that facility, and then back out to Jordan Lane. He stated that the City believed they had settled on the safety of this, so that it would be an acceptable location for persons who wanted a job at that distribution center, and that they could get in and out of the community, but, also, there would be safety at the school.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that he was glad that Pastor Johnson had raised this question. He stated that this had been announced at one of the Council meetings. He stated that several persons had called to inquire about what was going on at that site, and that he had contacted Ms. Michelle Jordan and Mr. Shane Davis, and they had announced at a Council meeting what was to go in at that location, that it had not been concealed. He stated that once they had found out what it was, they had announced to the public that it was going to be another economic development opportunity at the intersection of Jordan Lane and Mastin Lake Road.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda

was Huntsville Utilities Items.

Mr. Jay Stowe, CEO of Huntsville Utilities, appeared at the microphone.

President Culver stated that Mr. Stowe had agreed to provide the cost for each of the items, as had been previously requested.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of materials and labor for new construction projects for FY2017 (BWO 151-2017), in the amount of \$4,783,489, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-689)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of materials and labor for renewal and replacement projects for FY2017 (BWO 152-2017), in the amount of \$4,305,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-690)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of transportation items for FY2017 (BWO 173-2017), in the amount of \$455,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-691)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of metering equipment for FY2017 (BWO 176-2017), in the amount of \$840,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-692)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of materials and labor for new construction projects for FY2017 (BWO 251-2017), in the amount of \$2,532,195, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-693)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of materials and labor for renewal and replacement projects for FY2017 (BWO 252-2017), in the amount of \$1,940,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-694)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of tools and work equipment for FY2017 (BWO 272-2017), in the amount of \$127,500, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-695)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of transportation items for FY2017 (BWO 273-2017), \$181,500, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-696)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of computer equipment for FY2017 (BWO 275-2017), in the amount of \$155,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-697)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of metering equipment for FY2017 (BWO 276-2017), in the amount of \$350,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-698)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of new regulators for FY2017 (BWO 278-2017), in the amount of \$85,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-699)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of materials for new construction projects for FY2017 (BWO 351-2017), in the amount of \$12,880,658, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-700)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of materials and labor for renewal and replacement projects for FY2017 (BWO 352-2017), in the amount of \$1,915,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-701)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of transportation items for FY2017 (BWO 373-2017), in the amount of \$1,318,572, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-702)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of computer equipment for FY2017 (BWO 375-2017), in the amount of \$1,506,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-703)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of metering equipment for FY2017 (BWO 376-2017), in the amount of \$385,000, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-704)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the purchase of transformers for FY2017 (BWO 377-2017), in the amount of \$2 million, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-705)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval for the expenses related to operating and maintaining the computer systems for FY2017 (BWO IT-2017), in the amount of \$3,104,277, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-706)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval to purchase contract labor to landscape Old Highway 431 (PR 10228663), in the amount of \$52,487, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-707)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing approval to purchase outside architectural services for the remodel of the downtown building (PR 10229895), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-708)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing

resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

President Culver recognized Mr. Stowe.

Mr. Stowe stated that this was a purchase requisition that they were moving forward with, to start to look at the remodeling of their building. He stated that this would be all internal work, nothing external. He stated that with the changes they had had over the years and with the combining of their departments to be more efficient, they needed to realign some of the buildings and some of the areas, mainly on the second floor for this phase. He continued that, however, they had all three floors that they would be doing a little work on. He stated that this was the beginning process for this.

President Culver inquired of Mr. Stowe as to the cost.

Mr. Stowe stated that it was \$100,000, for the architectural study.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Resolution No. 16-708, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell asked Mr. Stowe if this would be his last meeting.

Mr. Stowe replied in the affirmative.

Councilman Russell stated to Mr. Stowe that they hated to

see him go, that they had really enjoyed working with him. He stated that he knew he was going to be in Chattanooga, but he was still going to be a citizen of Huntsville, and that he would be welcome to appear before the Council as a citizen and criticize them. He stated that Ms. Reed could have a new partner.

Mr. Stowe stated that it had been an honor to be a part of this, and that he appreciated the work the Council and the Administration did. He stated that he had grown up in a family where his father had worked for several different cities, and that he had also worked for several different cities. He stated that the City officials had been there so long that he thought perhaps they might somehow lose track of how good they were, and how good the community was. He stated that he certainly appreciated having had the opportunity to be a part of this, and that he appreciated having the opportunity to work with each of them, and having had the opportunity for the Council to approve the items on the agenda so that they could keep on doing good things. He stated that someone else would be standing in front of them to discuss electric rate increases at a later date.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Joe Ritch to the Animal Services Advisory Committee, Place 3, for a term to expire September 8, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-709)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing

resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Mary Gustine to the Animal Services Advisory Committee, Place 4, for a term to expire September 8, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-710)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Steve Stricklin to the Board of Examinations and Appeals for Construction Industries, for a term to expire September 21, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-711)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Mark Seeley to the Board of Examinations and Appeals for Construction Industries, for a term to expire September 21, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-712)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Edward T. Jones to the Board of Examinations and Appeals for Construction Industries, for a term to expire September 21, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-713)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Kenneth W. Chandler to the Board of Examinations and Appeals for Construction Industries, for a term to expire September 21, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-714)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Joy Parker to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-715)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Tammy Leeth to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-716)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Betty Gaylor to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-717)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Tobye Scheer to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-718)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to appoint John Hudgens to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-719)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to

appoint Al Hess to the Beautification Board, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-720)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Lea Ellison to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-721)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to appoint Tammie Terry to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-722)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to appoint Ann Kvach to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-723)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to appoint Barbara Williams to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-724)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Martha Jo Smith to the City Tree Commission, for a term to expire October 8, 2018, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-725)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Alison Jacks to the Medical Clinic Board of the City of Huntsville-1966, for a term to expire March 10, 2022, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-726)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Billy D. Lenox to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council, for a term to expire April 28, 2019, as

follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-727)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Michelle McMullen to the Community Development Citizens Advisory Council, for a term to expire August 28, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-728)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Amy Harbarger to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-729)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Kristen Bodeker to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-730)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint John Eagan to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-731)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Dawn Stanley to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-732)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint Richard K. Hempstead, Jr., to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-733)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to reappoint John Gully to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-734)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution to appoint Nichole Schroer to the Burritt Memorial Committee, for a term to expire October 1, 2019, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-735)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver asked if there were any Board Appointment Nominations.

There was no response.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Approval of Expenditures.

Councilman Showers read and introduced a resolution authorizing expenditures for payment, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-736)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from the Mayor.

President Culver asked Mr. Hamilton if he had anything at this time.

Mr. Hamilton replied in the negative.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Communications from Council Members.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated he was delighted to say at this time how much he appreciated the City, the Administration, other Council members, and the Lowery family, who had been in the city for the ribbon-cutting and dedication of Dr. Joseph E. Lowery Boulevard.

Councilman Showers stated that he wanted to thank Shane Davis and his department for the work and support the City was rendering for the sidewalk rail protection for the students who walked along Pulaski Pike to the new school.

Councilman Showers stated that he had gotten a call earlier in the day about a line that was down too low on Green Meadow, off Cedar Point. He stated that he wanted to thank John Olshefski, who had taken it upon his department to go out to that site and address the concern. He stated that this was 6605 Green Meadow Road. He stated that Mr. Olshefski had informed him that it was not an electrical cable line, but it was a cable line that was non-electric. He stated that it had been corrected.

Councilman Showers stated that he had also been advised that the lights on that street were not as current as they should be, and that this was creating an opportunity for persons to park at the end of that street, because there were no lights, and there was some undesirable activity going on.

He stated that all of this was being corrected, and any citizens on that street should not have to report activities going on that should not be going on.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell stated that he would waive his time.

President Culver recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she was aware that the hour was late, but she felt the need to make some comments at this time. She stated that her thoughts during the week had gone to June of 2011, when she had sat in this room, as a member of the School Board, at a special called Board meeting that would have significant community interest. She continued that this was to appoint a new superintendent.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that she had made the motion at that time to appoint Casey Wardynski as the superintendent, and he had been hired on a 3-2 vote, but he came anyway. She stated that they had had significant financial challenges, but he came anyway. She stated that they had aging facilities and empty schools, but he came anyway. She stated that they had decreasing test scores and decreasing graduation rates, but he came anyway. She stated that he was someone who was not afraid of challenges, that he was a warrior who took on change. She stated that someone she had spoken to the prior week had called him a bulldozer, and that her response was, "When you have to move a mountain, you use a bulldozer." She stated that he had moved the mountain.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that Dr. Wardynski had announced the prior week that he was leaving the School System. She stated that he was leaving it better than he had found it, with over \$200 million in new buildings and over \$47 million in reserve, and with test scores, graduation rates, and scholarships that had increased. She stated that, unfortunately, a piece of good news had gotten lost in the shuffle the prior week, and that was that this year they had a record number of National Merit scholars. She stated that that was something that was a legacy to Dr. Wardynski. She stated that they wished him well in his new life.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that they were grateful that Tom Drake had stepped up to the challenge of serving as the interim superintendent, because this would give the Board the opportunity to do a national search, to take its time to find someone who could carry out the legacy that Dr. Wardynski was leaving.

President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he would like to express his condolences to the Carl Draper family, noting that Mr. Draper had passed away. He stated that he had had the opportunity to visit with some of the family members, and that he hoped the family was aware that there was a lot of love and support in the community to support them at this time. He stated that Mr. Draper would certainly be missed.

Councilman Kling thanked the persons who had attended his

Town Meeting on the prior Monday, noting that it had been a very lively session, with a lot of good discussion and good ideas that had been brought up. He stated that every concern that was brought up had been relayed to various department heads, and that according to the responses he had received from the department heads, every one of these concerns had been acted upon, and the problems had been taken care of.

Councilman Kling stated that on the following Thursday, September 29, at 6 p.m., in the Council Chambers, there would be a BIG Picture meeting, to deal primarily with issues pertaining to growth and planning for the Medical District. He stated that all the persons who lived in that area, as well as other citizens, were more than welcome to attend this meeting.

Councilman Kling stated that he wanted to express his appreciation, as the Council member for District 4, for the work and concern that Casey Wardynski had done as the school superintendent. He stated that whenever a building became vacant, Dr. Wardynski would make sure that it had a neighborhood-friendly outcome. He stated that Stone Middle School had become a very busy, attractive brew pub tourist destination in West Huntsville. He continued that when the West Huntsville Elementary School had become vacant, it had become a business incubator. He stated that when plans were announced that Westlawn School would be vacated, Dr. Wardynski had made sure that the vacant building, which he noted would

still be used for at least another school year, would be put to a neighborhood-friendly use as a business incubator.

Councilman Kling stated that he certainly wished Dr. Wardynski well in his future plans and thanked him for what he had done. He stated that anyone could have just left an empty school building in their wake, but that Dr. Wardynski had made sure that those buildings were brought up to neighborhood-friendly outcomes. He stated that this was much appreciated by himself and by countless citizens in the West Huntsville neighborhoods.

President Culver stated that he certainly wanted to ditto the sentiments of both Councilwoman Robinson and Councilman Kling. He stated that Dr. Wardynski had been tasked with having to balance all areas of the city, and that he had made a significant number of positive contributions to all the communities. He stated that he wanted to wish him well. He stated that whoever would take over in this position would certainly have some big shoes to fill.

President Culver stated that there had been a neighborhood association meeting at Sherwood Park, and he had presented the MidCity Plan to the citizens there, and that they were very excited. He continued that, however, they did not want a direct connection with MidCity, as with a roadway, but perhaps a walking path. He stated that they would be cognizant of that.

President Culver that on this date, at 5 p.m., had been

the deadline for interested candidates for the Municipal Court judgeship to make application or to make their interest known for this position. He stated that files had been prepared for each of the Council members with pertinent information concerning the applicants. He stated that the Council members should feel free to interview the candidates of their choice. He stated that he would probably look at all of them. He continued that at some time the Council would make a decision, and that he was hoping that it would be at least by the next Regular Council Meeting, if they were prepared to move forward with this selection.

President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he had no problem with this, noting that several applicants had already contacted him. He asked if the thinking was that each Council member would sort of do their due diligence individually, and then they would come together at the next Regular Council Meeting and see if they could make a decision at that point.

President Culver stated that that was the plan. He stated that, just like they had made appointments to other boards, they would take it upon themselves to interview the applicants and make a decision as to who they would want to recommend.

Councilwoman Robinson inquired as to how many applications they had.

President Culver stated that he believed there were eight or nine.

Councilwoman Robinson asked if it would be possible to hold public interviews, noting that that might be more efficient, rather than having every Council member separately individually interview applicants.

President Culver stated that that was a decision the Council could make, if the members chose to do that. He stated that he would like to remind the Council members that they had to be extremely meticulous as to what they asked potential judges. He stated that if the Council members wanted to do a public hearing on this, they could certainly do that.

Councilman Kling stated that he would certainly show up if the Council did this, but that some of the applicants he had already met with and others he might want to just call. He stated that he believed he could have more candid discussions with the applicants if he could just do one-on-one. He stated that, however, if there were to be a Council hearing or something, he certainly would show up.

President Culver stated that he had also interviewed several of the applicants, as well.

Councilman Russell stated that one of his concerns was that they did not have a process for this. He stated that he thought it would be best if President Culver would come up with a process, and then let the Council members comment on the process.

After further discussion, President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers stated that the Council had made appointments ever since he had been serving on the Council. He stated that he had already been contacted by persons who were interested in this position, and he had held interviews. He stated that he really did not want to go back and redo that, that he was prepared to make a decision.

President Culver asked how the Council wished to handle this matter. He stated that it had been handled in the way they were currently doing it for the prior several years. He stated that they had never conducted public hearings on this, and stated that he believed if they went into that, they would be getting into some very meticulous territory.

Councilwoman Robinson stated to President Culver that he had indicated that they needed to be very careful about the questions they asked the applicants, and stated that a public hearing would certainly ensure that they did that.

After further discussion, President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that he was comfortable with just meeting with the applicants one-on-one, and meeting with the ones that he had not met with already, but if one, two, or three Council members wanted to have a public hearing, he would certainly support that.

President Culver stated that this would not necessarily be a public hearing, per se, that it would be conducted at a work session, but, of course, the general public could attend.

He stated that he wanted to make it clear that it would not be a public hearing.

President Culver stated that Councilman Showers had expressed his concerns about this, and that he shared his view on this. He stated that Councilman Russell and Councilwoman Robinson were espousing a public hearing and asked where Councilman Kling stood on this.

Councilman Kling reiterated that if one, two, or three Councilpersons wanted to have a public hearing, he would support their right to do so. He stated that everyone should have what they wanted, and that he would support them on that.

Councilman Russell stated that he believed the term was "public interviews."

Councilwoman Robinson stated that perhaps the Council members who wanted to attend could do so, and the Council members who did not want to would not have to, but that they could still provide the public an opportunity to participate in the process.

President Culver stated that that was what they would do, then, but that ultimately each individual Council member would make his or her decision as it related to who the associate judge would be.

Councilman Russell stated that President Culver was aware that he had already written him concerning what he felt should be done in this matter. He stated that he believed one step that was missing was they never intended to interview all nine

applicants in a public setting. He stated that perhaps someone should look at the applications, or they all should look at them, and try to score them, and come up with three applicants to interview, or something such as that. He stated that they were really looking to President Culver for a process that they could all agree on, and then they should follow the process. He stated that he himself had not interviewed anyone, because he had been waiting for the process. He stated that he felt it was wrong that they were interviewing persons at this time, without taking applications or knowing who the applicants were.

President Culver stated that he certainly did not have a problem with narrowing the nine candidates down to three. He stated that his concern to the Council members would be if they were not talking to them, then how could they narrow them down.

Councilman Russell stated that his suggestion concerning this to President Culver, as the presiding officer, was that either all the Council members scored the applicants or President Culver would appoint a committee to score them, and come up with three finalists.

President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling stated that it appeared there were two different schools of thought on this, that there was the Chair and Councilman Showers on one side and Councilman Russell and Councilwoman Robinson on the other side. He stated that what he would like to suggest would be that President Culver and Councilman Russell be a committee of two, to come up with a

number, whether it would be three or four, that would come before the full Council.

Councilman Russell stated that that would be fine with him.

President Culver stated that that would be fine with him, as well.

President Culver stated to Councilman Russell that they would do that.

Councilman Russell responded in the affirmative.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion on this matter.

Councilman Showers inquired as to when this would be done.

President Culver stated that they would hold the public interviews on Thursday of the following week, so that between this time and the following Thursday, Councilman Russell and he would get together and go through all the applicants. He stated that all the Council members would have copies of all the applicants' information, as well. He stated that they would narrow it down to three persons, and then they would interview those three publicly.

President Culver stated that there would be a work session of the Council on the following Thursday, September 29, 2016, at 4 p.m., for the purpose of public interviews of the applicants for Associate Judge of the Municipal Court.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Unfinished Business Items for Action.

Councilwoman Robinson moved for approval of Ordinance No. 16-658, amending Ordinance No. 89-79, Classification and Salary Plan, which ordinance was introduced at the September 8, 2016, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-658)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Kling.

President Culver asked if there was someone from the Police Department who could address this ordinance.

Deputy Chief Kirk Giles appeared at the microphone. He stated that this was an ordinance they had asked to be passed. He continued that this was in regard to the public safety aides, the Safety Patrol persons who directed traffic and escorted the children back and forth across the street for school. He stated that they wanted to raise these persons' salaries, as was set out in the ordinance.

Deputy Chief Giles stated that at this point, they had a real problem with recruiting and retention for this position, because of the salary they had had for quite some time. He stated that they would certainly appreciate the Council's positive vote on this.

President Culver recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Public Safety aides, who were part-time employees, came in at the lowest grade and step. He continued that they were a real force multiplier for the Police Department, not only with what they did in school zones in the mornings and the afternoons, but also assisting with

special events. He stated that Chief McMurray had come to him sometime prior with some analysis on what was happening with their pay, at that lowest grade and step. He stated that they would often come in and work for just two or three hours on a weekend, or an evening, for a special event, and that when one did the math on just how much it cost to get to work and back home again, and the taxes that were withdrawn, these persons were effectively working for free.

Mr. Hamilton stated that this would allow them to bring these persons in two steps higher. He stated that part of the issue was that within their rules, a part-time employee did not get step increases, so they could have employees in that particular career field who had been with them for more than a decade, and they were still at the lowest grade and step. He stated that what this would do would be to get them to a salary where they would not be essentially working for free at times. He stated that this would address some of the recruiting and retention issues they had within that force.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above ordinance.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Ordinance No. 16-658, and it was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Kling moved for approval of Ordinance No. 16-659, Substitute A, adopting the City of Huntsville Annual Budget for Fiscal Year 2017, beginning October 1, 2016,

which ordinance was introduced at the September 8, 2016, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-659, SUBSTITUTE A)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above ordinance.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell moved to amend the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017, specifically Exhibit B, to reflect the following modifications: A decrease of one authorized position of the City Council, which would result in seven positions being authorized for Fiscal Year 2017, instead of eight positions; and an increase in one position in the Police Department, which would result in the authorized strength for the Police being 650 for Fiscal Year 2017 instead of 649.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the amendment.

Councilman Russell stated that he believed this clearly showed that public safety was the Council's No. 1 priority, that this action would send a good message that this Council took public safety seriously and would affirm that it was their top priority. He stated that it would also show that they were trying to move services to where they were needed by the citizens. He stated that they were certainly aware that more

police officers were needed.

Councilman Russell stated that the Council currently functioned great with two staff members, and there was no need to budget for three staff members when only two were needed. He stated that they were serving their citizens well there.

Councilman Russell asked the other Council members to join him in making public safety their No. 1 priority.

President Culver stated that he could not agree more with Councilman Russell that the Police Department needed all the positions they could reasonably get, but that he did want to bring to the Council's attention that what they had in their office was one full-time person and one part-time person, who was limited in the number of hours she could work. He stated that it did not matter, per se, how much work was being done, and how much work was not being done, but that the bottom line was that their office had to be open to the public from 8 to 5, five days a week, excluding holidays.

President Culver stated that he had taken an entire year, especially since he had been President of the Council, to study and review this situation. He stated that they had gotten through the holidays, but it was a challenge, that they had ended up having to bring in temporary help. He stated that as the Council members were aware, at this time, they had had a lot of unfortunate things to happen in their office with some of their staff members, and they had had a temporary worker in for this entire week, and that this would probably go into the

next week.

President Culver stated that it was not fair to the employees in their office to not be able to take off. He stated that when one would factor in the holiday leave they would get, and the annual leave, the sick leave, bereavement leave, and unplanned leave, there was a lot of vacancy there. He stated that he had had to go in at times, after working a late night Council meeting, to make sure the office was covered in the morning, because the part-time person usually came in about 11 a.m. He stated that if someone were to have an emergency or were to be sick, then he found himself going in. He stated that he did not mind this, but that his point was that that office could not function properly with one and a half persons. He stated that if they needed to make it two full-time people, they could do that, but that one and one-half persons was just not sufficient to run the office.

Councilman Russell stated that they were budgeted at this time for three full-time persons, and that he was just suggesting that they move it down to two full-time persons. He stated that they would have slots for two full-time people.

President Culver inquired if there would also be the position for the part-time person.

Councilman Russell replied in the negative.

President Culver asked if they would eliminate the part-time person.

Councilman Russell stated that that would be up to

President Culver, that he was the President of the Council, that he should decide.

After further discussion, President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling asked Councilman Russell if he was correct that this dollar amount from the City Council would not cover the full position in the Police Department.

Councilman Russell stated that it would come close to covering a starting police officer's salary, but it would not cover it fully. He stated that he believed the Police Department would be able to find the extra dollars to hire a police officer. He stated that it would not be an even swap.

Councilman Kling asked Councilman Russell if there would be anything in his proposal that would prohibit the Council from hiring an additional part-time person.

Councilman Russell replied in the negative, stating that the Council, by three votes, could do whatever it wished to do.

Councilman Kling asked if two slots would be considered to be the same as one full-time slot and two half-time slots.

Councilman Russell stated in some way that was what was being done at this time, by hiring temporary people to fill in.

Councilman Russell stated that he believed the best way to handle the office would be with temporaries, because if they did not know when the times of emergencies would be, it would be difficult to get a half-time person to show up.

Councilman Kling stated that it appeared to him that if there was a need, perhaps there was a need for a half-time position.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that it was not a workload issue, that it was a scheduling issue, and the scheduling issue could be figured out.

President Culver stated that they should keep in mind that the position would be limited to 40 hours, and that one of their employees could work up to 27 hours a week, so that they would be cutting back on one employee and bringing another employee in for 20 hours a week if they were to do that.

President Culver stated that before the Council made a decision on this, he would like to submit it to a committee for further study.

Councilwoman Robinson stated that they needed to pass the budget at this meeting, and this was an amendment to the budget.

President Culver stated that they could pass the budget, but they could submit this particular item to a committee, and they could report back.

Councilman Russell inquired as to why they could not decide on this at this time.

President Culver stated that he would like for them to look at all the ramifications surrounding it.

After further discussion, President Culver called for a roll call vote on Councilman Russell's motion to amend

Ordinance No. 16-659, Substitute A, the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2017, specifically Exhibit B, to reflect the following modifications: A decrease of one authorized position of the City Council, which would result in seven positions being authorized for Fiscal Year 2017, instead of eight positions; and an increase in one position in the Police Department, which would result in the authorized strength for the Police being 650 for Fiscal Year 2017 instead of 649, and the following vote resulted:

AYES: Kling, Robinson, Russell

NAYS: Showers, Culver

President Culver stated that the amendment had passed.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above ordinance.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Ordinance No. 16-659, Substitute A, as Amended, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver moved for approval of Resolution No. 16-660, approving the City of Huntsville 1990 Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-2026, which resolution was introduced at the September 8, 2016, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-660)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the

above resolution.

President Culver recognized Councilman Kling.

Councilman Kling moved to amend the City of Huntsville 1990 Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-2026, Resolution No. 16-660, to earmark two-thirds (2/3) of the Annual Street Resurfacing Money for the resurfacing of the residential streets, with such money to be allocated by the Director of Public Works, to ensure that all streets throughout the city are formally evaluated for condition of pavement, so that the greatest need for maintenance is addressed consistently throughout all districts of the city.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above amendment.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Councilman Kling's amendment, and it was unanimously approved.

President Culver called for the vote on Resolution No. 16-660, as Amended, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver moved for approval of Resolution No. 16-661, approving the City of Huntsville 2014 Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-2026, which resolution was introduced at the September 8, 2016, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-661)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers.

Councilman Kling moved to amend the City of Huntsville 2014 Capital Improvement Plan for Fiscal Years 2017-2026, Resolution No. 16-661, to earmark two-thirds (2/3) of the Annual Street Resurfacing Money for the resurfacing of the residential streets, with such money to be allocated by the Director of Public Works, to ensure that all streets throughout the city are formally evaluated for condition of pavement, so that the greatest need for maintenance is addressed consistently throughout all districts of the city.

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Culver called for the vote on the above amendment, and it was unanimously approved.

President Culver called for the vote on Resolution No. 16-661, as Amended, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver moved for approval of Ordinance No. 16-662, amending Ordinance No. 89-79, to provide all eligible employees of the City of Huntsville a Cost-Of-Living Adjustment (COLA), effective October 10, 2016, as reflected in the FY 2017 Budget, which ordinance was introduced at the September 8, 2016, Regular Council Meeting, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-662)

Said motion was duly seconded by Councilman Russell.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above ordinance.

President Culver recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the Budget for Fiscal Year 2017, which the Council had just passed, included the dollars necessary to pay the employees at the rate that included the two percent COLA. He stated that this ordinance was essentially a sister ordinance to this previous ordinance the Council had passed, that it directed the Payroll Department and Human Resources to update the salary schedule to match the two percent COLA the Council had approved, in terms of the dollars and cents in the earlier ordinance.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above ordinance.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Ordinance No. 16-662, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Introduction.

President Culver read and introduced Ordinance No. 16-737, amending Chapter 9, Cemeteries, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama.

President Culver read and introduced Ordinance No. 16-738, declaring certain Public Transit vehicles surplus and authorizing disposal of the same by auction.

President Culver read and introduced Ordinance No. 16-739, amending Section 18-36, Sidewalk Cafes, Vendors, and Mobile Food Vendors, of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Huntsville, Alabama, by amending hours of operation for mobile

food vending units.

President Culver asked if someone from Planning could comment on the ordinance he had just introduced.

Mr. Jim McGuffey of the Planning Department appeared at the microphone. He stated that this was an amendment to the Central City Ordinance that focused primarily on food trucks downtown. He stated that currently the ordinance allowed for food trucks to be parked in specific locations downtown on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights, from 9 p.m. to 2 a.m. He continued that this amendment to the ordinance would allow them to also be parked there on Wednesdays.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was New Business Items for Consideration or Action.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into agreements with the low bidders meeting specifications as outlined in the attached Summary of Bids for Acceptance, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-740)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing travel expenses, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-741)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced an ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 15-642 by changing the appropriated funding in various departments and funds, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-742)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced an ordinance amending Budget Ordinance No. 15-642 by changing the authorized strength in various departments, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-743)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Special Employee Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Edith Mayes, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-744)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Modification No. 8 to the

agreement between the City of Huntsville and Behavioral Health Systems, Inc., as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-745)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an application for stop loss insurance coverage with HCC Life Insurance Company for the purpose of renewing stop loss insurance coverage with the City's group health plans, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-746)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to renew a group accident insurance policy with Markel Insurance Company for volunteer workers, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-747)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute Amendment No. 2 to the agreement between the City of Huntsville and WageWorks, Inc.,

to renew and extend services from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-748)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a renewal agreement between the City of Huntsville and Lincoln Financial Group for group insurance, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-749)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a renewal agreement between the City of Huntsville and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Alabama for group health insurance administrative services, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-750)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an application for excess workers' compensation insurance with Safety National Casualty

Corporation, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-751)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Special Employee Agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama, and Phyllis J. Smith, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-752)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Special Employee Agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama, and Joyce Douglass, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-753)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute an application for renewal of a commercial crime policy for government entities, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-754)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing

resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement between the City of Huntsville, Alabama, and Sally K. Davis, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-755)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Special Employee Agreement between the City of Huntsville and Hilary Gould, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-756)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Family Services Center, Inc., for Housing Counseling Program, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-757)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution

authorizing the Mayor to execute a Cooperative Agreement for the 2016 Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG), as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-758)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to accept CHAMP, Cities Combating Hunger through Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs, grant funds from the National League of Cities for the implementation of Afterschool and Summer Meal Programs locally, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-759)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the North Central Alabama Highway Safety Office (NAHSO) and the City of Huntsville, Alabama, for Overtime Traffic Enforcement Funds, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-760)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution

authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the low bidder, Reed Contracting Services, Inc., for Boeing Boulevard Repaving, Project No. 71-16-RR07, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-761)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Sharp Communication, Inc., for Professional and Technical Services, including Consulting, Installation, Repair, Maintenance, and Technical Support, for the SCADA and Network Communications Systems, Project No. 71-16-SP53, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-762)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Huntsville/Madison County Chamber of Commerce, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-763)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by

Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell moved for approval of a request for authorization to advertise and fill the position of Revenue License Inspector, Grade 15, at a higher than minimum rate if necessary, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously approved.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Board of Trustees of the University of Alabama, for the continuation of cost-sharing for the UAH campus shuttle route, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-764)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor the enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Huntsville-Madison County Mental Health Center, for the continuation of providing transportation for the Adult Day Treatment Program Clients, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-765)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the

City of Huntsville and the City of Madison for Dispatching and Scheduling Services of Para Transit Vehicles for the MARS program, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-766)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the City Clerk-Treasurer to invoke Progress Bank Letter of Credit No. 9000403200 for Midtowne on the Park, Phase 5, Subdivision, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-767)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter an agreement between the City of Huntsville and Pro Electric, Inc., to provide construction services for the Big Spring Park West Electrical Renovation, located at 200 Church Street, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-768)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell read and introduced a resolution authorizing the acceptance of donations, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-769)

Councilman Russell moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by President Culver.

President Culver recognized Ms. Sargent.

Ms. Sargent stated that this was a donation of \$400 worth of plants for the Maple Hill Cemetery, given by SiteOne Landscape Supply.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Resolution No. 16-769, and it was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Russell moved for approval of a request for authorization to advertise and fill regular, full time position of Street Sign & Marking Technician, Grade 10, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Culver recognized Mr. Dan Sanders, Director of Traffic Engineering.

Mr. Sanders stated that this was just asking for permission to fill a vacant position on the outside, or to advertise on the outside.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of this matter.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Councilman Russell's motion, and it was unanimously approved.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and the Land Trust of North Alabama, Inc., for the Acquisition, Maintenance, and Promotion of Greenway Space, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-770)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion on the above resolution.

Mr. Dennis Madsen, Manager of Urban and Long-Range Planning, appeared before the Council. He stated that this was an agreement between the Land Trust and the City to facilitate greenway development, and that it was in the amount of \$125,000 annually, for five years.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above resolution.

President Culver recognized Councilwoman Robinson.

Councilwoman Robinson asked if it was correct that this was a significant departure from the way the City had been managing its greenways.

Mr. Madsen stated that that was correct. He stated that this was, in part, in response to a lot of the public comments they had heard, that persons had asked them to accelerate the development of greenways. He stated that when they had looked

at other cities, that frequently municipalities had engaged a non-profit partner. He continued that non-profits were frequently much better at raising money, and that this was an option to leverage some of the money they had already set aside in the budget the Council had just passed. He stated that this was a significant uptick in anticipated expenditures on Greenways, but it actually allowed them to leverage out even more into potentially private sector donations.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above resolution.

President Culver recognized Councilman Showers.

Councilman Showers asked Mr. Madsen if there was a citywide Greenway Space Plan.

Mr. Madsen stated that they had one that was somewhat out of date. He continued that one of the things that was part of this agreement was that the Land Trust would help them update that Greenway Plan and make sure that certain segments that they had looked at in the past were still viable, and then start to add some that were being demanded by the public.

Councilman Showers asked Mr. Madsen if he had an idea as to when the Council could have knowledge of the central plan for the entire city.

Mr. Madsen stated that after this resolution was passed, he believed they would start working on that with the Land Trust in the fall, and that hopefully they would have some drafts by the following spring or summer.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Resolution No. 16-770, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement between the City of Huntsville and CapitalEdge Strategies, as follows:

(RESOLUTION NO. 16-771)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing resolution, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson.

President Culver asked if there was any discussion of the above resolution.

President Culver recognized Councilman Russell.

Councilman Russell stated that he had questions concerning this resolution.

Mr. Harrison Diamond, City Business Relations Officer, appeared before the Council.

Councilman Russell asked Mr. Diamond who CapitalEdge Strategies was.

Mr. Diamond stated that CapitalEdge was the City's Washington, D.C., consultant that had been assisting them for a number of years. He stated that the contract before the Council, which he noted was valued at \$68,200, was a renewal of the contract they had had for the past couple of years.

Councilman Russell asked what they did for the City.

Mr. Diamond stated that they were basically the City's tactical group in D.C., that they assisted them with any grants they went after, they apprised them of any rules changes that might adversely affect the City, and helped them stay in front of a lot of key issues.

President Culver stated that that was similar to what the City's State rep did, as well.

Mr. Diamond stated that that was correct.

President Culver asked if there was any further discussion of the above resolution.

There was no response.

President Culver called for the vote on Resolution No. 16-771, and it was unanimously adopted.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Legal Department Items/Transactions.

President Culver read and introduced an ordinance vacating Utility and Drainage Easements for Tracts 2 and 3, Mill Run Subdivision, Phase 3, as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-772)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver read and introduced an ordinance vacating Utility and Drainage Easements for Lots 38 and 39, Hawks Ridge, Fifth Addition, 3955 and 3957 Hawks Way (Almodovar), as

follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-773)

President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers and was unanimously adopted.

Councilman Showers read and introduced an ordinance vacating Utility and Drainage Easements for Lots 8, 9 and 10, Clearwater Subdivision, Phase IV, 4721 Shortline Circle (Tanner/Williams), as follows:

(ORDINANCE NO. 16-774)

Councilman Showers moved for approval of the foregoing ordinance, which motion was duly seconded by Councilwoman Robinson and was unanimously adopted.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Deeds for Acceptance.

Mr. Riley submitted the following deed for approval:

(DEED)

Whereupon, President Culver moved for approval of the foregoing deed, which motion was duly seconded by Councilman Showers, and was unanimously approved.

President Culver stated that the next item on the agenda was Non-Roster Communications from the Public.

President Culver stated that persons who wished to address the Council should position themselves in the vicinity of a microphone, and they would have three minutes in which to address the Council.

Ms. Jackie Reed again appeared before the Council, stating that she wanted to make a few statements. She asked if the Land Trust item was \$60,000 or \$120,000. She stated that she had the budget sheet, and that it said \$60,000. She stated that perhaps she did not have the right sheet.

Ms. Reed stated that they needed to put more police officers to work, about 65 of them. She stated that the traffic was terrible, and there were wrecks all over the city. She stated that the Subway on Jordan Lane had been robbed, and that the Dollar General had been robbed twice in one week, and that now they shut the store down at 8 p.m. rather than 9 p.m. She stated that robberies were going on all over the city. She stated that they did not have enough police officers for the traffic, much less to guard the stores. She stated that rather than staying open and giving the City tax money, they were having to close their doors because of the robberies.

Ms. Reed stated that perhaps they did not hear what she heard, and that they needed to know what was going on in the city.

Ms. Reed stated that the public should show up for the meeting on September 29th in the Council Chambers, noting that it was called the "BIG Picture," but that it was a disaster. She stated that persons should hear it, because it could affect their neighborhood.

President Culver stated that Ms. Reed's questions were concerning the amount for the Land Trust, and that she had

stated that they needed more police officers. He stated that she could thank Councilman Russell for that, because they had just added an additional police officer, and that that would be some help in that direction.

President Culver recognized Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. Hamilton stated to Ms. Reed that the document that she was looking at that had the amount of \$60,000 was the annual appropriation that the City provided to the Land Trust, to assist with their operations and other things they did. He stated that the contract that the Council had passed was \$125,000, and that was actually budgeted for in Professional Services in the Engineering Department. He stated that Ms. Reed was looking at a different document.

Mr. William Kirby, 2511 Garden Park, appeared before the Council, stating that he was a Huntsville native, but this was his first time to attend a City Council meeting, so he would apologize in advance for any breach of protocol. He thanked the Council for their time and their consideration.

Mr. Kirby reiterated that he was a native of Huntsville and stated that he had moved back to Huntsville in 1998 and purchased a home in the Garden Park area, the Harrison Hills Subdivision, in 2000. He stated that he had moved back to Huntsville to work at Marshall Space Flight Center.

Mr. Kirby stated that one of the things that had been mentioned in the meeting, he believed by Mr. Davis, was a \$1.5 million development in the Builders Square area. He

stated that he understood that Mr. Davis was under non-disclosure agreements with certain developers, but he was wondering if Mr. Davis could expound a little bit on what that might be at the Builders Square location. He stated that he believed that one of the frustrations, being a native of North Huntsville, was that sometimes things were already in the works that the residents in that area were not aware of, things that that they would like a little more detail about.

Mr. Kirby stated that the reason he was asking this question was because in his subdivision, they had recently suffered a 40 percent drop in their appraised home values. He stated that he had gone before the Appraisal Board to argue this. He stated that for the benefit of those who were not aware of this neighborhood, the quality of homes in this neighborhood was similar to the quality of homes one would find in the Harvest, Madison, and Monrovia areas, that it was one of the newer subdivisions in North Huntsville. He stated that they had taken a 40 percent hit because of, he believed, different economic factors that had occurred in the city. He stated that one of the things that persons wanted to know, or that he wanted to know personally, was about some of the development that was going on that might or might not affect his area adversely or might improve their property values. He continued that they actually had Google fiber being laid in his neighborhood, also.

Mr. Kirby stated that he had another question, concerning

road projects that he believed had been mentioned. He asked how he could get his subdivision added to the list of persons asking when they could get their streets paved.

President Culver recognized Mr. Davis.

Mr. Davis stated that, as far as street resurfacing, Mr. Kirby should contact the Public Works Department, and that they would send one of their inspectors out to grade the streets in Mr. Kirby's subdivision and see where that would fall. He stated that, of course, Mr. Hamilton or Mr. McNeese would relay that information, where they would fall within the entire city street resurfacing program.

Mr. Davis stated, concerning the Builders Square site, that what they were working on at that location would be a mixed-use project, which would have a mix of restaurants, retail, and livability options. He stated that, as he had mentioned earlier, this must show a return on investment, for the City's investment, and be something of quality that would add value to the community. He stated that if they could check the box on both of those and bring a development to the Council, it should positively affect Mr. Kirby's property values.

Mr. Kirby asked, concerning livability options, if Mr. Davis was talking about apartments, condos, or what.

Mr. Davis stated that it would be a mixture of both, that he believed it would be similar to Twickenham Square, that was located behind the hospital. He stated that something such as

that would be in the nature of mixed use, so that there could be some multi-family and a mixed variety of retail uses. He stated that the current market study that they were working with showed that that was a positive project for that location, that the economics worked for that. He stated that they would continue to work through that, and that, hopefully, in the first part of 2017, things would continue to move positively so that they could bring something regarding this before the Council. He stated that, as he had mentioned earlier, they were not there yet, but they were pretty far down the road.

Mr. Kirby stated that what appeared to frustrate residents in the North Huntsville area was that it appeared that other sections of Huntsville seemed to be more aware of the details of what was going on, such as if it would be a check-cashing place or a Macy's.

President Culver stated to Mr. Kirby that his time to address the Council was up, and that if he had additional questions, he was sure that Mr. Davis would be more than happy to address those privately.

Mr. Davis stated to President Culver that he was going to suggest that he might step outside with Mr. Kirby and discuss this matter.

President Culver thanked Mr. Davis.

Mr. Steven Pitts, 124 Lockport Drive, Harvest, appeared before the Council, stating that he had grown up in Huntsville and had lived all over Huntsville. He stated that he had gone

to Holy Spirit in the fourth grade, and that he and his parents had established themselves in the community, that persons may have heard about them. He stated that, however, he was not appearing at this time for his local family, but his human family. He stated that he was attending the meeting along with his wife and children.

Mr. Pitts stated that they believed that black lives mattered, and they also believed that homeless lives mattered, as well as inner city youth, as well as every other member of the human family.

Mr. Pitts stated that this was the reason that he and his wife were about to launch a campaign in Huntsville, Alabama, to help people navigate through some of the most trying circumstances persons might find themselves in. He stated that what a homeless person would need was far different from what the inner city youth would need. He stated that for this reason was why they were going to be asking the city members of Huntsville to give just five dollars per month to develop programs, or to launch programs that they had already been developing for the past year, which were designed to give people a new lease on life.

Mr. Pitts stated that for the homeless people, along with a new lease on life, they would be giving them a new apartment. He continued that while they were preparing to get their new apartment, they were going to daily be learning social courtesy skills, helping them to again become productive members of

society. He stated that maybe they were before or maybe they had never had a chance, that everyone had a different story.

Mr. Pitts stated that many of the inner city youth were growing up learning only about what sports and entertainment were doing after school, and that their parents might not be able to afford to put them on a club soccer team and travel, for example, to Columbia, Tennessee, to play in a tournament, like his parents had done. He stated that their parents might not be able to afford that, so the kids were just having to grown up on TV. He stated that what they wanted to do for the inner city youth with Project New Heart Square was that after school, they wanted to introduce them to productive trades, so they did not have to vicariously learn criminal trades at a young age.

Mr. Pitts stated that they wanted to fight, not by standing in front of highways, blocking traffic, and rioting, and protesting, but they wanted to fight by helping.

Mr. Pitts stated that this was what they stood for.

Mr. Pitts stated that he had some flyers. He stated that he was the only one who worked in his household, who had a traditional job, but he and his wife were just putting their own money in. He continued that they had three children, but they were putting their own money in. He stated that he had a marketing background, and he knew that they could not come half set. He stated that if they were doing a mom and pop's, they did not want to look like a mom and pop's, that they needed to

look like McDonald's, that one needed to look like they had their things going together.

Mr. Pitts stated that they were paying out of their own money to get heart-shaped flyers, and that they had balloons, t-shirts, that they were running a campaign in the city. He stated that they had local businesses, hair salons and barbers, all coming together. He stated that homeless people were actually going to help them, that he had been telling the homeless people that they wanted them to join them, and that when they reached their first goal of 5,000 persons giving \$5 per month, they were going right to an apartment complex and getting them an apartment. He stated that they were signing up to help, and that they had salons that were signing up to do the hair for these people, and make-overs.

Mr. Pitts stated that he was appearing before the Council at this time to appeal to the City to be the first member, for \$5 a month.

President Culver stated to Mr. Pitts that he applauded him and his family for a couple of reasons, noting that, one, they had endured the Council meeting, that they had stayed until the end, and that, secondly, he certainly applauded them for their efforts. He stated that they might want to work in collaboration with some of the other agencies, such as NACH and some of the other agencies that tried to help persons. He stated that Mr. Pitts had a difficult task ahead of him.

President Culver stated that the City as a whole could not

participate in this, but individual Council members who elected to do so could.

Mr. Pitts stated that he would just like to say that the current infrastructure was not designed to help give people an opportunity, that just a very small number were getting an opportunity, if one were to look at the statistics, even right here in the city. He stated that with \$25,000 coming in a month, they were designing projects that would get people apartments, that they could get them on their feet.

President Culver thanked Mr. Pitts for his comments and stated that he should feel free to disseminate his information if he so desired.

President Culver asked if there was anyone else in the audience who would like to address the Council at this time.

There was no response.

Upon motion, duly seconded, the meeting was adjourned.

PRESIDENT OF THE CITY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

CITY CLERK-TREASURER